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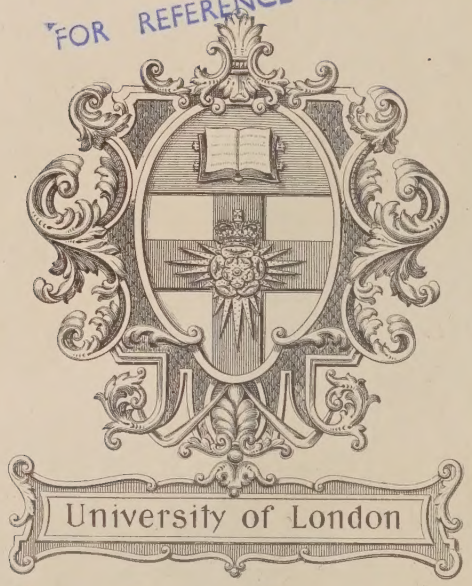


University of London

REPORTS

FROM

COMMITTEES:

SEVENTEEN VOLUMES.

—(13.—Part II.)—

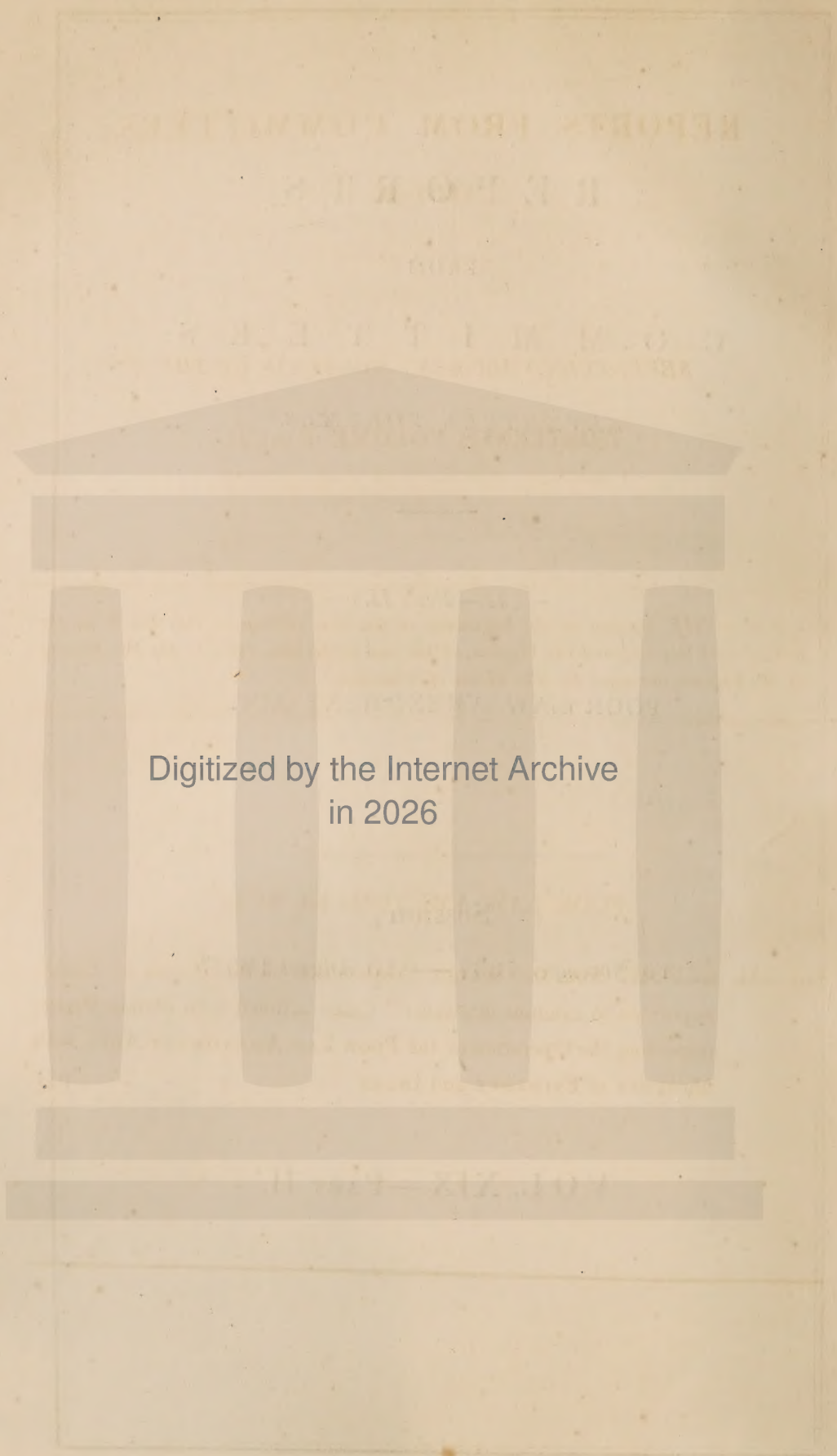
POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT.

Session

15 *November* 1837——16 *August* 1838.

VOL. XIX.—Part II.

1838.



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REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

1837-8.

SEVENTEEN VOLUMES:—CONTENTS OF THE

THIRTEENTH VOLUME, PART II.

N.B.—*THE* Figures *at the* beginning of the line, *correspond with the* N° *at the foot of each* Report; *and the* Figures *at the* end of the line, *refer to the* MS. Paging *of the Volumes arranged for The House of Commons.*

POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT:

719.—II. REPORT from the SELECT COMMITTEE of the HOUSE OF LORDS, appointed to examine into several Cases alluded to in certain Papers respecting the Operation of the POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT; with MINUTES of EVIDENCE and INDEX - - - - - - p. 1

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Brought from The Lords, 14 August 1838.

REPORT

FROM THE

SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS

APPOINTED TO EXAMINE INTO

THE SEVERAL CASES ALLUDED TO IN CERTAIN PAPERS

RESPECTING THE

OPERATION

OF THE

POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT;

AND TO REPORT THEREON.

WITH

THE MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

TAKEN BEFORE THE COMMITTEE,

AND

AN INDEX THERETO.

PART I.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
15 *August* 1838.

3

REPORT

FROM

THE SELECT COMMITTEE.

BY THE LORDS COMMITTEES appointed a SELECT COMMITTEE to examine into the several CASES alluded to in the following PAPERS, and to report thereon to the HOUSE:

Copy of the Correspondence between the Guardians of the Bourne Poor Union and General Johnson in February 1838 relative to a Statement made by that Officer at a Public Meeting at the Crown and Anchor Tavern: Also,

Copy of a Letter from the Secretary of the Poor Law Commissioners to the Reverend G. S. Bull respecting certain Passages contained in a Speech delivered by him at a Public Meeting at Bradford in the Month of February 1837; together with the Answer to such Letter, if any has been received: Also,

Copy of the Correspondence between Earl Stanhope and the Poor Law Commissioners, in the Month of January last, respecting a Statement of the Cases of several poor Persons who had suffered under the Poor Law Amendment Act: Also,

Copy of a Letter to the Poor Law Commissioners from the Minister, Overseers, and Ratepayers of Shalbourne, respecting Relief to large Families by the Admission of a Part of such Families to the Hungerford Union Workhouse, together with their Answer thereto; with Copy of a Letter from the Clerk of the Union, and a Report from Mr. Hall the Assistant Commissioner, on the same Subject: And also,

Copy of Correspondence between the Poor Law Commissioners and the Guardians of the Bridgewater Union and others respecting the Insufficiency of the Dietary in the Bridgewater Union Workhouse, and respecting any alleged improper Conduct upon the Part of the Guardians or Surgeons of that Union in the Treatment of the Poor thereof.

And to whom were referred—

Return of the Date when the Dietary (3,894 B.) was adopted for able-bodied Paupers at the Dudley Workhouse: Also,

Return of the Total Number of Inmates in the Dudley Workhouse from the above Period up to the End of the last Quarter: Also,

Return of the Total Number of Sick during the same Period, stating the Age and Sex of each sick Pauper, and the Nature of his or her Complaint: Also,

Return of the Total Number of those who have died during the same Period, stating the Age and Sex of each, the Nature of his or her Employment before Admission, and the Nature of the Illness of which he or she died, as entered in the Weekly Return of the Medical Officer: Also,

Copy of all Reports made by the Medical Officers of the Dudley Workhouse, or of any Entry made by them on the Books, complaining of the Insufficiency of the Diet Table, or of any Injury experienced by any of the Inmates on that Account: Also,

List of all able-bodied Paupers admitted into the Dudley Workhouse since the Commencement of the last Quarter, stating the Age, Sex, Occupation, and Date of Admission of each, and Date of the Discharge of such as have left the House, and the State of Health of each at the Time both of the Admission and Discharge: also, List of the present Inmates of the Dudley Workhouse, specifying the Age, Occupation, State of Health, and Date of Admission of each: Also,

Petition of the Board of Guardians for the Dudley Union, praying for Alteration of the Poor Laws Amendment Act, and for the Abridgment of the Powers granted to the Commissioners: Also,

Copy of the Correspondence between the Poor Law Commissioners and the Guardians of Dudley Union respecting the Diet of the able-bodied Pauper Inmates of the Union Workhouse or Workhouses: Also,

Copy of the Correspondence between the said Commissioners and the Guardians of the City of London Union, or other Officers of that Union or of Parishes within that Union, respecting the Diet of Adult Paupers in the Workhouse or Workhouses within the said Union: Also,

Copy of the Depositions in the Case of an Inquest held on the Body of Edward Marvin, found dead on the 17th November last: Also,

Copies of Two Letters from the Secretary of the Bridge Union in the County of Kent to the Earl of Winchilsea, respecting the Case of James Thorpe, a Pauper of that Union, together with his Lordship's Answers thereto: Also,

Copies of any Orders of the Board of Guardians of the Bridge Union relative to the above Case, and of any Communications between that Board and the Assistant Poor Law Commissioner or the Poor Law Commissioners upon that Subject: Also,

Copy

Copy of the Depositions in the Case of an Inquest held on the Body of Joseph Carter, and the Verdict of the Jury thereupon: Also,

Copy of the Inquisition held upon the Body of Sarah Deacon in the Month of December 1836, together with a Copy of the Verdict: Also,

Copy of the Weekly Medical Return for the Bridgwater Workhouse, from 29th September 1836 to 28th April 1837: Also,

Copy of the Weekly Medical Return for the North Petherton Workhouse, from 29th September 1836 to 28th April 1837: Also,

Copies of the Dietaries used in the Bridgwater and North Petherton Workhouses previous to 28th April 1837: Also,

Copies of Dietaries adopted since 28th April 1837, specifying when first adopted, and when sanctioned by the Poor Law Commissioners: Also,

List of Paupers removed from the Bridgwater to the North Petherton Workhouse, stating the State of Health, and if sick, the Disease of each when removed: Also,

A Return of the largest Number of Pauper Inmates in the Bridgwater Workhouse in each Week, from the Formation of the Bridgwater Union to the Time of Removal to the new Workhouse: Also,

Copy of any Report made by the Medical Officer of the Bridgwater Workhouse that the House was crowded or too full, or that the Dietary was improper or insufficient and ought to be changed; together with any Resolutions adopted by the Board of Guardians in consequence of such Report, specifying the Dates: Also,

Copy of the Medical Weekly Return for the Bridgwater Workhouse from 1st January to 30th April 1838, specifying the Ages and Nature of the Diseases of each Pauper respectively: Also,

Names and Descriptions of Persons applying for Relief to the Board of Guardians of the Bridgwater Union between 12th January and 2d March 1838, to whom Out-door Relief was ordered, specifying the Relief ordered in each particular Case: Also,

Copy of any Rule relative to Pauper Funerals adopted by the Board of Guardians of the Bridgwater Union on 25th August 1836: And also,

Copy of the Correspondence between the Reverend William J. Phillpots and the Board of Guardians of the Martley Poor Union, respecting the Ill-treatment of a Female Pauper in the Hallow Workhouse by the Matron:

And to whom were referred:

The Petition of William Riland, Bedford, Clerk, Rector of Sutton Coldfield:

The Petition of the Board of Guardians for the Dudley Union: and

The Petition of the Clergy, Gentry, Guardians, and Ratepayers of the several Parishes in the Hungerford Union, in the Counties of Berks, Wilts, and Hants; severally praying their Lordships for Alteration of the Poor Law Amendment Act:

And to whom was also referred:

The Petition of the Guardians of the Poor of the Haverfordwest Union, praying their Lordships that no Alteration may be made in the Principle of the Poor Law Amendment Act:

ORDERED TO REPORT:

That the Committee have met and considered the Subject Matter of the said Reference, and have also considered the several further Papers and Petitions referred to them, and have examined several Witnesses, and have come to the following Resolutions; viz.

I. Upon the Subject of the CORRESPONDENCE between the GUARDIANS of the BOURNE POOR UNION and GENERAL JOHNSON;

Resolved,

1. That there is no Evidence that Edward Marvin came by his Death from "Starvation," as General Johnson is, in the Report of his Speech at the Crown and Anchor in the Month of February last, stated to have expressed himself, but that, according to the Verdict of the Coroner's Jury, his Death was caused by the "Inclemency of the Weather."

2. That it appears from the Evidence that the only Application made by Marvin previous to that to General Johnson was to Mr. Kenny the Overseer of his Parish, who declined relieving him for Reasons which appear to the Committee to have been satisfactory.

3. That it appears to the Committee that if a Person of the Character and with the Means of Edward Marvin was really destitute, the only Relief which ought under any System of Poor Laws, whether the old or the new, to have been afforded to him, was an Offer of the Workhouse.

4. That in like Manner the Case of John Cam is one in which, he having no House of his own wherein to shelter himself and Family, and having been already twice in the Workhouse, and being of a doubtful Character, the Offer of the Workhouse appears to have been most proper and judicious.

5. That his Refusal to accept that Offer appears to have been occasioned mainly by the Knowledge that if he went into the Workhouse his Pension of 6*d.* per Day would be attached by the Parish under the Provisions of the Act 9 Geo. 3. Cap. 12.; and there is no Proof of himself or any of his Family having been improperly or severely treated in the Workhouse on the preceding Occasions.

6. That it appears to the Committee, that, although there never has been an Instance when Thirty or between Thirty and Forty able-bodied Labourers,

Labourers, as stated by General Johnson, applied together for Relief to the Board of Guardians of the Bourne Union, Fifteen Persons of that Class did apply on the 25th January last, and were in consequence offered Orders to go into the Workhouse.

7. That these Persons were upon the next Day offered Work by the Surveyor of the Highways, a Rate having been agreed upon by the Parishioners for the express Purpose of enabling him to employ them.

8. That only a small Proportion of that Number availed themselves of that Offer; and that there is no Evidence either of those who accepted it, or those who it must be supposed obtained Work elsewhere, having suffered any real Hardship by the Offer of the Workhouse having been so made as the only Means of Relief in the Power of the Guardians to afford them.

9. That the Two first of these Cases appear to the Committee to afford no Proof of any general Indisposition to going into the Workhouse as a Condition of Relief, as stated by General Johnson; but that they do afford Proof, so far as they go, that to Persons of dissolute and drunken Habits, who, if industrious, would have the Means of providing for their Families and themselves, the Confinement and Restrictions of the Workhouse are irksome and disagreeable.

10. That in the Third Case the Shortness of the Period which elapsed between the making of the Offer of the Workhouse to the able-bodied Men and their obtaining Employment elsewhere, renders it doubtful how far there really existed in the Minds of those Persons any such strong Dislike of going into the Workhouse as has been asserted, on account of the Treatment there.

11. That in the Case of John Kettle of the Bourne Union, who was refused Medical Relief, except on Loan, for his sick Wife, unless he came into the Workhouse with his whole Family, it appears to the Committee that the Board of Guardians acted upon that Occasion upon an erroneous View of the Meaning of the prohibitory Order of the Poor Law Commissioners, and of the Law; but, that although for the Purpose of satisfying what they conceived to be the Effect of that Order, they tendered Medical Relief in the Shape of a Loan only, they did so without any Intention of requiring the Repayment of the Loan.

12. That the Committee regret that General Johnson has not attended the Board of Guardians of the Bourne Union in which he resides and acts as a Magistrate, which Attendance would have enabled him to judge of the Accuracy of the Inferences which he drew from the Statements made to him; to make himself acquainted with the Reasons which induced that Board to refuse Relief in these Cases; to have pressed upon the Board his Objection to the Course pursued, and to have induced them to correct any thing in the Treatment of the Paupers in the Workhouse or its Management which he might have conceived to have given rise to the Unwillingness of the Paupers to go into the Workhouse, of which he asserted the Existence at a Meeting expressly called to excite the Public Mind against the System established by the new Poor Law.

II. Upon the Subject of a Letter from the Secretary of the Poor Law Commissioners to the Reverend G. S. Bull;

Resolved,

1. That with regard to the Statements made by the Reverend G. S. Bull, the Story told by him at a Meeting held at Bradford in the West Riding of the County of York in December last of the Maltreatment of Mary and John Howes in the Nottingham Workhouse, and of their having been forcibly separated there, was entirely founded upon Information derived from a Woman calling herself Mary Howes, who was found by the Roadside near Bradford.

2. That, supposing her Story to be true, Mary Howes, must from the Dates given have been in the Workhouse under the old and not under the new Law.

3. That it appears from the Evidence of Mr. A. Barnett, the Governor of the Nottingham Workhouse, that for Fifteen Years last past no Persons of the Names of John or Mary Howes have been in that Workhouse; that Fifteen Years ago a Woman in the House assumed that Name, which appears to have been a fictitious one.

4. That thinking, from some Knowledge of her Character, that this Story might have been told by a Woman of the Name of Bradley, who was in the Nottingham and afterwards in Chesterfield Workhouse, Mr. Barnett went over there, but found that to have been impossible, as that Person had not been out of the Chesterfield Workhouse for Two Years.

5. That in that Case therefore Mr. Bull seems to have been the Dupe of some designing Person.

6. That in the Case of John Brown, the Cripple produced by Mr. Bull at the Meeting at Bradford on the 8th of February 1838, it appears that he is the Son of a Widow named Hannah Brown, living at Litchborough in the Towcester Union in the County of Northampton, that he has had for some Time something of the Nature of a White Swelling in his Knee, and there has been a Question at Times of his undergoing Amputation of that Leg.

7. That the Mother has at Times received Relief for him; but that, as he was coming to an Age at which he might be put Apprentice, the Parish were desirous that he should be so, and consequently pressed the Mother frequently, by Threats of stopping her Allowance and taking the Boy into the Workhouse, to let him be bound Apprentice.

8. That in the Beginning of 1836, his Half Brother, who is a Tailor at Bradford, consented to take him as an Apprentice, and received with him a small Premium given by a Charity at Litchborough, and that he is with him still, learning the Trade of a Tailor, and doing very well.

9. That the Mother never has been threatened to have any Part of her Allowance interfered with, either before or since the Meeting at Bradford, on account of any thing that passed there.

10. That this Boy told Mr. Bull of a common Report which was current at Litchborough, that a Girl named Jane Adams had been flogged in the Towcester Workhouse with a Whip.

11. That

11. That he never did tell Mr. Bull that she was stripped and flogged upon her bare Back like a Soldier, as stated by Mr. Bull upon that Occasion; but he told him that it was reported, although he did not know it, that she was flogged with a Whip having Eight or Ten Lashes.

12. That the only Foundation for this Report was, that upon one Occasion the Mistress of the Workhouse had, for filthy Practices, given her a Box on the Ear with her open Hand, and another Time given her Two Blows with a small Cane over her Shoulders, she having all her Clothes on.

13. That Mr. Bull never took any pains, previous to the Meetings at which he made these Statements, to ascertain the Truth of what had been told him by the Woman Mary Howes, or by the Boy John Brown.

14. That with regard to the Case, referred to by Mr. Bull on the 8th of February, of John Minto, who, having committed Suicide, was declared by the Verdict of the Coroner's Jury to have done so under a Fit of temporary Insanity, Mr. Bull knows nothing upon the Subject beyond what he has read in a Newspaper, although he took upon himself to state at that Meeting that the Verdict should have been "Wilful Murder against the Oppressors of the Poor," in consequence of what he had read in that Newspaper attributing this Man's Death to his Dread of going into the Bedlington Workhouse.

15. That the Committee cannot refrain from expressing their Regret that a Person of Mr. Bull's Station in Life, he being a Clergyman of the Church of England, with a Cure of Souls in the immediate Neighbourhood of Bradford, which District was at the Time of these Public Meetings in a high State of Excitement upon the Subject of the Introduction of the new Poor Law, should have added his Authority to Statements into the Truth of which he took no previous pains to inquire, and which were in their Nature, when coming from him, and made upon such Occasions, calculated greatly to increase that Excitement.

III. Upon the Subject of the Correspondence between Earl Stanhope and the Poor Law Commissioners;

Resolved,

1. That it appears to the Committee that these Cases were furnished to Lord Stanhope by Mr. John Lewin, a Farmer and Miller at Wickham Market in Suffolk, who had been Overseer or Churchwarden of that Parish under the old Law.

2. That Mr. Lewin is employed by a Society in London to collect and transmit Information upon Cases of alleged Hardship and Oppression under the new Law.

3. That these Cases have been inquired into by the Committee, and that a great deal of Evidence has been taken upon them; but the Committee feel great Difficulty in deciding upon the Amount of Relief which ought to be given in individual Cases, the Law having placed a Discretion in that respect with the Guardians of the Union, who from their local Knowledge and Experience must have superior Means of judging of the Wants and Earnings of the several Paupers

in their immediate Neighbourhood than can be obtained from any Evidence taken before a Committee of this House.

4. That even supposing these Cases to have been correctly stated, and to have been confirmed by Evidence, the whole Effect of them would be to show that the Board of Guardians of the Unions in which they occurred, not being under any peremptory Order from the Poor Law Commissioners respecting Relief out of the Workhouse to able-bodied Paupers, had acted harshly towards these Persons in refusing or withdrawing Relief improperly.

5. That it appears, however, to the Committee, from the Evidence examined before it, that no Case of the Infliction of Hardship by an improper Use of the Discretion vested in the Guardians has been proved to the Satisfaction of the Committee.

6. That although the Case of Widow Smith does not appear to be well founded, so far as she is herself concerned, it does appear to the Committee that there was some Neglect upon the part of the Relieving Officer in not taking care that her Father-in-Law, a very old Man, then dying from Debility, and in the Receipt of *2s.* 6*d.* per Week as Relief, was not left entirely without Medical Assistance, and without the Linen necessary to keep him in a decently clean State; but the Committee think it right to observe that no Application had been made, either by the Pauper himself or his Family, upon that Subject, and the Pauper had previously declared his Unwillingness to see a Medical Person, and was at the Time strongly urged to go into the Workhouse.

7. That the Committee think it right also to observe upon some other Circumstances connected with the Relief of the Poor in these Unions.

8. That it appears to the Committee that the Guardians and Relieving Officers have in some Cases so urgently recommended the Migration of the Destitute as the most beneficial Course to the Poor, that the Applicants have been sometimes erroneously led to conclude that present Relief might be contingent upon such Migration; and the Committee regret that such Misapprehension should have been created by the Way in which such Recommendations have been made.

9. That the Committee are of opinion that the Practice which appears to have prevailed of allowing the Relieving Officers a general Discretion to diminish the Allowance ordered by the Board of Guardians without previously making a Report to that Board, might lead to Abuse, and must, when improperly exercised, necessarily create great Dissatisfaction upon the Part of the Paupers whose Cases have been already heard and decided upon by the Board.

IV. Upon the Subject of the Letter to the Poor Law Commissioners from the Minister, Overseers, and Ratepayers of Shalbourne.

Resolved,

1. That it appears from the Evidence that Isaac Watts, with reference to whose Case Application was made by the Minister, Churchwardens, Overseers, and certain other Ratepayers of Shalbourne, being a Majority in Numbers and Value of that Parish, to the Poor Law Commissioners, for

for a Relaxation of their Order, to the Extent of permitting some of the Children of able-bodied Persons in want of Relief to be taken into the Workhouse without their Parents, was, at the Time the Application was made, an Inmate of the Workhouse with his Family.

2. That Watts had been previously employed at the weekly Wages of 8*s.* per Week all the Year round, by Mr. Abraham Kingston, one of the Subscribers to that Application, and the Holder of a very great Quantity of Land in the Parish of Shalbourne.

3. That these Wages appear to be the full Wages usually given thereabouts to weekly Labourers having Families, but that young unmarried Persons are not generally paid more than 5*s.* or 6*s.* weekly.

4. That at the Time of Year (the End of January last), and in the then State of the Weather, none of his Children could, in any Way, earn any thing in addition to his own Wages for the Support of his Family.

5. That Isaac Watts appears to have been a well-conducted Man, willing to work, and industrious, but not a strong or powerful Labourer.

6. That his Master had no Intention of not continuing to employ him at these Wages, but that upon his complaining that he could not keep his Family upon the 8*s.*, his Master having more Labourers (under the same Circumstances) than were necessary, as he states, for the Cultivation of his Farm, declined giving him any more, and suggested to him to apply to the Relieving Officer for Relief.

7. That upon his doing so, Relief was refused, unless by his going into the Workhouse with his whole Family.

8. That his Master (Mr. Kingston) then recommended him, upon his stating his Inability to keep his Family from the severest Want, to go with them into the Workhouse until Summer.

9. That he remained Sixteen Days in the Workhouse, and then left it with his Family on account of the Confinement; after which Mr. Kingston again found him Work as before, and he has since remained out, doing as well as he can; Two of his Children having since the breaking up of the Frost been able to earn something in addition to his own Wages.

10. That it appears that there are several other Families in the Parish under the same Circumstances, and that in some Cases during the last Winter they have suffered very great Privations.

11. That therefore if the Rule had been relaxed in the Case of Isaac Watts it must have been so likewise in those other Cases.

12. That it appears to the Committee that Mr. Kingston was actuated by the kindest Motives toward Watts, and was during the whole Time actually employing him at 8*s.* per Week, more in consequence of his kind Feelings towards him than from any actual Want of his Services; that he was quite willing to continue to do so; that the Idea of applying to the Parish for Relief came from Watts, in consequence of the Insufficiency of those Wages (which were quite equal to the Wages usually given) for the Support of his Family; and that a further Proof of Mr. Kingston's Feeling in this respect is afforded by his again employing Watts after his coming out of the Workhouse.

 13. That

13. That the Application to the Poor Law Commissioners was founded upon a general Impression among the Subscribers to it, that Persons with very large Families cannot maintain their Families upon the present Rate of Wages in that Part of the Country, and that the offering to take a Part of their Families into the Workhouse would be better and cheaper than to force the Father and the whole Family into it when they are driven to Extremities.

14. That the Committee have endeavoured to confine themselves to the Facts, and to the Conduct as well as the supposed Objects of the Parties, not thinking themselves entitled to give any Opinion as to the Propriety of the imperative Order of the Poor Law Commissioners being altered, as prayed for by the Memorial from Shalbourne.

V. With regard to the Correspondence between the Poor Law Commissioners and the Guardians of the Bridgwater Union and others respecting the Insufficiency of the Dietary in the Workhouse, and respecting any alleged improper Conduct upon the Part of the Guardians or Surgeons of that Union in the Treatment of the Poor;

The Committee have been occupied for a considerable Time in taking Evidence upon the several Matters contained in that Correspondence.

The great Length of Time which that Inquiry has occupied, and the Quantity and Nature of the Evidence, have necessarily produced great Difference of Opinion in the Committee, and require a more careful and attentive Consideration than they have found it possible at this late Period of the Session to give to that Evidence, with a view of arriving at a satisfactory Conclusion upon it.

The Committee therefore have thought it their Duty to report the whole of the Evidence, to which they have added an Index; and it will be for the House in the next Session of Parliament to decide whether the Labours of the Committee shall be resumed for the Purpose of reporting their Opinion upon that Evidence, as well as of inquiring into the Facts contained in the other Papers and Petitions which have been referred to them, but to which they have been unable, during this Session, to direct their Attention.

13

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

TAKEN BEFORE

THE SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS

APPOINTED TO EXAMINE INTO

The several Cases alluded to in certain Papers

RESPECTING THE

OPERATION OF THE POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT;

AND TO REPORT THEREON.

1838.

PART I.

Evidence taken from 8th May to 25th June.

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Die Martis, 8° *Maii* 1838.

The Lord WHARNCLIFFE in the Chair.

Major General JOHNSON, a Member of the House of Commons, attending, is examined as follows:

YOU are Member for Oldham?
I am.

You attended a Meeting, in the Month of February last at the Crown and Anchor, upon the Subject of the Poor Laws?
I believe I did.

At that Meeting, we understand, you brought forward some Cases of Mismanagement against some Boards of Union?
I do not know that I did; I stated some Facts which had come to my own Knowledge.

Were they Facts as against the Management of the Board of Guardians, or Facts independent of any Board of Guardians?
I think not Facts against any Board of Guardians, further than showing the Dislike of the Labouring Classes to the Act in general.

Have you any Objection to give the Committee Information respecting those Cases?
Not the slightest; I will state from what it arose. At the Meeting there were some Gentlemen had made Remarks about the Unpopularity of the Poor Law in the Manufacturing Districts, and they wished much to know whether there was any Person acquainted with the Agricultural Districts who could speak to the Reception the Law had met with in these Parts of the Country. Living entirely in an Agricultural County, I said I thought I could state a Case or Two, that had occurred lately within my own Knowledge, and very near my own Residence; the one was a Case relating to a Man of the Name of Edward Marvin.

Your Residence is in Lincolnshire?
Yes.

Which is the nearest Post Town to you?
I am just between Bourn and Stamford; rather nearer to Bourn than Stamford.

You act as a Magistrate there?
I do; and as Chairman of the Quarter Sessions.

Where did Marvin reside?
At Moreton, which is in the Bourn Union. On Monday, the 13th of November last, this Man, Marvin, came to me, as a Magistrate, to beg I would order him some Relief or some Work from his Parish. I told him it was totally out of my Power to do it; that if he wanted Work or Relief he must apply to the Board of Guardians; and I added, that as he appeared to me an able-bodied Man, I did not suppose they would find him Work without taking him into the House; but that he had better apply on the following Thursday, their usual Day of Meeting; to which he replied, that he would rather die than go into the Union Workhouse. Finding that I could not order him any Relief, he said, that it was very hard, after having served his Country through the War in Spain, to be refused Work without being made a Prisoner. He then went away. On Friday Evening, the 17th of November, I heard that he

Major General Johnson.

was found dead between Bourn and Stamford, by the Road Side. I have a Copy of the Inquisition, which probably will be more satisfactory than my Testimony, as I merely heard that, and I procured this from the Coroner. The Jury found, "That the aforesaid Edward Marvin, at Toft aforesaid, in the Parts and County aforesaid, on Friday, the 17th Day of November instant, was found dead by the Side of the Road leading from Toft aforesaid to Thureby, in the said County; that there did not appear to be any Marks of Violence on any Part of the Person of the said Edward Marvin; and the Jurors aforesaid, on their Oath aforesaid, do further say, that the said Edward Marvin departed this Life in the Night of Thursday, the 16th Day of November instant, or very early in the Morning of Friday, the 17th Day of November instant, from natural Causes, and by the Visitation of God; that is to say, by being exposed to the Inclemency of the Weather."

About what Age was this Man?
I should think he was about Fifty.

Did he state whether he had applied to the relieving Officer?
I think he had; I am not very positive, but I think he stated that he asked the relieving Officer, and that the relieving Officer told him he must go to the Board of Guardians.

Do you know what became of the Man between the 13th, when he applied to you, and the 17th, when he was found dead?
I never heard any thing from him. I think I was going from Home for Two or Three Days, and did not return till Friday.

Do you know whether he ever did, in consequence of what you stated, apply to the relieving Officer?
I think he stated that he had applied to the relieving Officer, who had referred him to the Board of Guardians, as I did.

Do you know whether, between the 13th when he applied to you and the 16th when he died, he made any Application to the Board of Guardians?
Not the least.

In point of fact, do you know that the Board of Guardians were at all cognizant of this Man being in Distress?
I have no Knowledge whatever of that.

Nor of the relieving Officer having any Knowledge of it?
No. I have some Recollection of his having told me that he applied to the relieving Officer, who referred him to the Board of Guardians.

Without having given him any Relief?
I am perfectly sure he said he had had no Relief.

Did you know him before?
Perfectly well.

What Sort of Man was he?
A drunken Man.

An ill-conducted Man?
I should say so certainly.

Had he a Pension?
I think he had a small Pension.

Do you know what it was?
I do not.

Was he a married Man?
If he had been married his Wife was dead. I think he had a Daughter alive.

Do you know her Age?
No.

Do you know the Age of the Man?
Judging from his Appearance, I should think about Fifty.

Major General Johnson.

You produce that Case not as an Instance in which the Poor Law had been defective in its Operation, but rather of the Feeling of this Man being subject to the Consequences of asking for Relief?
I produced it as a Proof of the Dislike of such a Class of Persons to the Law.

This Man being a Drunkard and an ill-conducted Man, you supposed he had no Chance of getting Out-door Relief?
I did; I told him I thought he would not.

Under those Circumstances, and with the Character of that Man, do you not think the Board of Guardians and the relieving Officer would have been right in refusing him Relief out of the Workhouse, supposing him to have applied?
I cannot say that; it must depend on local Circumstances.

Supposing the old Poor Law existing at this Moment, and this Man had come before you as a Magistrate, and you knew his Character as a drunken Man and an ill-conducted Person, would you not say he ought to be taken into the Workhouse rather than have Relief out of Doors?
I should say he ought to be set to work in some way or other.

Supposing there were no Means of setting him to work, and that the Workhouse was open to him, do you not think he would have been a proper Subject to have gone to the Workhouse, in preference to receiving Relief out of the Workhouse?
I do not think he would have been a proper Subject for Relief out of the Workhouse.

It was an Objection of this Man to be brought under the Restrictions he naturally would in the Workhouse?
Certainly.

Do you know the Age of this Man's Daughter?
I should think, as far as I can recollect, she must be about Two or Three and twenty.

Does she support herself?
She has once or twice, some Years ago, come before the Magistrates; but whether she does now support herself I cannot say. I have lost sight of her the last Three or Four Years.

Are you prepared to say whether that Man had not 3*s.* 6*d.* a Week Pension?
I really do not know what Pension he had.

Do you know that he had a Pension at all?
I do not know; but I believe he had. I remember his once bringing me a Letter written by the Duke of Wellington, recognizing something of him.

Do you know in which Regiment he served?
I think in the Rifle Corps; but I am not certain.

Do you know for whom he worked before he was out of Work the last Time?
No.

Was he an able-bodied Man?
He appeared so.

Do you not think that an able-bodied Man should, when he was employed, be able to keep himself by his Work, with the Assistance of a Pension?
No, I do not, if he cannot get Work.

What are the Wages in that Part of the Country?
The Wages in that Part of the Country are from 9*s.* to 12*s.* a Week.

How much do they get in Harvest?
I should think, on an Average, about 5*s.* a Day.

How much do you think it necessary a Man should have to be able to support himself through the Week, and find his Lodging?
I think he ought not to have less than 7*s.* or 8*s.*, when working for it.

Major General Johnson.

How does a Man in the Parish in which you live support himself, his Wife, and Three Children, with 10*s.* a Week?
I think many of them are badly off.

How do they support themselves on 10*s.* a Week, with a Wife and Three Children, if a single Man requires 8*s.* a Week for his Maintenance?
I think he should have 8*s.* a Week. I do not say he could not do with less; I think he might live on much less; but I think he ought to have 8*s.*, though perhaps he might do with less, working for it.

A Man who is able to work, you say, during the Year, who has a Pension, who you say is a drunken Man, and therefore spends, most probably, a considerable Part of his Earnings in Drink, you think a proper Man to receive Relief from the Parish Rates.
I do not say so.

Do you think him a proper Man to receive Relief from the Parish Rates?
I think he ought to receive Relief rather than starve.

Do you apprehend this Man was starved?
He did not appear to me in a starving Condition when he applied to me.

Did he appear to you in good Case?
Tolerably fair.

Is that the whole of the Evidence taken before the Coroner's Jury?
I do not know; that is merely the Verdict; I never heard any thing further.

Have your ever visited the Workhouse of the Bourn Union?
I have.

Do you consider that the Paupers are starved there?
Not at all; I never said that they were.

If the Man had chosen to have gone into that Workhouse he would not have been starved?
Certainly not.

Is it your Opinion that this Man did go to the Board of Guardians, or not?
I think he did not.

Then the Board of Guardians are not to be blamed in the slightest Degree?
I never put any Blame upon them.

Supposing those Facts to be as you have stated, how does this Case make out what you stated of the Poor Law; namely, that it was unpopular in the Country with the common People?
I stated another Case.

Do you know whether the Man was drunk on the Day he was found dead?
I have not the least Idea.

The Evidence you have given goes to prove the Opinion of certain Individuals as to the Merits of the Poor Law?
Yes.

The first Instance produced is one of a Man of the Name of Edward Marvin?
Yes.

In his Conversation with you he expressed his Abhorrence of the Workhouse, saying he would prefer to die?
He did.

He was pensioned?
I think he was; I am not certain.

Are you not aware, that on being taken into the Workhouse, a pensioned Man loses his Pension for the Time?
I was not aware of that. They generally take every thing a Man has; therefore, I dare say they would take his Pension.

Major General Johnson.

Are you not aware, that even under the ancient Poor Law the Pension was partially or fully stopped?
It was always taken into Account as a Part of his Property.

You are therefore aware that a pensioned Man has a particular Objection to being placed in a Workhouse?
I dare say he has; I am sure this Man had.

This Man being a pensioned Man expressed his Abhorrence of the Workhouse, the more strongly, do not you suppose, in consequence of that Suspension of his Pension?
I should say it was more his Dislike of the Restraint that would be put upon him than any thing else.

Do you think that a Man so peculiarly circumstanced as to feel more passionately against the Restraint of the Workhouse is a fair Measure of the public Opinion quoad the general Effect of the Poor Law?
I mentioned that as a Fact expressive of the individual Opinion of a particular Class of Persons.

Of pensioned Persons?
I do not say pensioned or otherwise, for I am not at all positive whether he had a Pension or not; he might very likely have disposed of his Pension. I think that not at all unlikely, for I think he would have given any thing for Drink.

Then, if he would have given any thing for Drink, would it have been advisable for the Parish to have given him Work, or taken him into the Workhouse?
I think he should have had Work.

Supposing the Parish were to find him Work, and that he was to spend the Money he got in Drink, do you think it would be advisable for the Parish to give him Work?
I think that the Parish should have been careful to give him just enough for Maintenance.

Under all the Circumstances, do you not think he was exactly the Person that ought to have gone into the Workhouse?
He was a very fit Person, as I said before, for the Workhouse.

Do you not think him a Person more than any other likely to object to the Workhouse on account of his Pension?
Every pensioned Man is more likely than another to object to the Workhouse.

And therefore not a fair Instance of public Opinion generally?
I do not state it as an Instance of public Opinion generally, but as a Proof of the general Dislike in the Country.

Of that Class?
Yes. I told it in corroboration of my Opinion that the Working Classes disliked it.

Do you consider a Man who is peculiarly circumstanced under a Pension to be a fair Criterion of a general Dislike of the Confinement of the Workhouse?
If it was a single Instance, certainly not.

The Case of Marvin, as a single Instance, would not, according to you, be Evidence of that for which you quoted it?
It would weigh very little in my Opinion, one way or another, but in corroboration of the general Feeling.

You have been in the habit of acting for some Years as a Magistrate?
Yes.

Has it been the Practice in that Part of Lincolnshire for able-bodied Labourers when out of Work to apply to the Parish Officers for Work?
Always, previous to the passing of this Law.

What has it been your Practice to order for single Men out of Work?
I think, that if we had ordered any Relief for that Man, we should have ordered him Work, or 3*s.* 6*d.* a Week.

Major General Johnson.

Could you have got any Magistrate to concur in Opinion with you that he should have 8*s.* a Week?

I think so; always supposing the Man to work for it.

Do you recollect such a Sum being ever ordered?

Certainly not; but I say they ought to have it. Nothing of the Kind was ever ordered. I do not mean to say that I should have ordered it by any means. I do not think that I should have exceeded 3*s.* or 3*s.* 6*d.* at the outside to single Men. Our general Rule was, previous to the present Law passing, that single Men should have about 3*s.* or 3*s.* 6*d.*, a good deal varying according to the Price of Wheat; and that a Woman should have 2*s.* or 2*s.* 6*d.*

This Man, assuming him to have had a Pension, appears to have had just as much as you would have ordered him?

I do not think we should have ordered him any thing if we knew he had 3*s.* 6*d.* Pension, as a single Man, provided he was independent of his Daughter. I believe at the Time of his Death he was independent of his Daughter.

You stated that it was the Practice in your Neighbourhood to order 3*s.* 6*d.* a Week for single Men?

According to the Price of Corn.

What Work was expected from a Man for that?

I think the usual Work; the same Work as other Labourers would have performed. He would have been ordered probably on the Road; that was the usual Plan, and then he was looked after in Summer Time, that he should begin his Work at Six and leave off at Six, taking an Hour for Breakfast and an Hour for Dinner; that has been our Practice.

What was your Practice with regard to married Men?

It varied entirely according to their Families; from 5*s.* to 6*s.*

Was there the same Disinclination at that Time to go into the Workhouse?

I think we never had Occasion to put them into the Workhouse; they generally found them Work upon the Roads.

Have you no Way of knowing whether there was any Disinclination to go into the Workhouse previous to the new Law?

I do not recollect hearing any Objections made to going in.

You do not recollect any Instance of Men being sent in?

No.

Was the Workhouse offered them in lieu of this Work?

The Workhouse in Bourn was so small, taking in only the Parish of Bourn; and only one other Parish in that Union had a Workhouse, which is Corby; I think there was no other Parish in that Union which had a Workhouse. They had Poor Houses, small Houses in which they let the People live free of Rent, but I do not recollect any Workhouse, except those at Corby and Bourn, unless there was one at Hazelby; but I was never called upon to visit any other.

You have no Means of judging from personal Experience whether greater Disinclination exists to going into the Workhouse at present than did formerly exist?

Of the Disinclination to go into the Workhouse at present, I have abundant Experience; I had no Experience of what it was formerly.

You have never seen the Depositions that were taken before the Coroner?

No; I never have.

Had you any Communication at all with the Coroner?

No; I wrote to him merely for that Document.

You did not know how the Man's being found on the Road was accounted for, or where he had been before?

Not at all. I never heard any thing at all from the Time of his leaving me on the Monday till I heard on Friday Evening of his being found dead on the Road Side.

Major General Johnson.

Did you ask him when he came to you how he had been employed before?
I asked him what he had been doing; he said he had had odd Jobs, and that he was out of Employ at that Time.

There was no Frost at that Time?
No; it was open Weather, I think.

During the Severity of the Weather did the able-bodied labouring Men suffer any Inconvenience in your District by being thrown out of Employment?
I think they did.

Is it the invariable Practice of the Body of Guardians of the Bourn Union to refuse all Relief to able-bodied Labourers, under any Case of urgent Necessity, unless they come into the Workhouse?
I think it has been, since the Order came from the Commissioners.

Have you never attended the Bourn Union?
No; and I never will while the Commissioners hold the Power they do.

Do you know that such an Order came from the Commissioners?
Yes; I saw the Letter.

What is the Date of it?
I do not recollect.

You say, that since the Union there are several Persons have expressed their Dislike to going into the Union Workhouse?
Yes.

Was the same Dislike felt with respect to the small Workhouse which you know?
No.

Since the large Workhouses have been built, there has been more Reluctance to be sent into them than there was to be sent into the small Workhouses?
Yes.

Have the goodness to state the other Cases to which you referred?
The other Case referred to a Man of the Name of John Cam, or Can, of Eddenham. On Monday, the 1st of January, Lord Willoughby's Bailiff came to me to request I would give him a Warrant to take up a Man of the Name of Cam, for sleeping in a Shed or Outhouse, I think he said in the Park, in Grimsthorpe Park, but certainly somewhere on Lord Willoughby's Property. I was just going out at the Time, going to Milton; it was about One o'Clock; and I asked him why he had not been to Bourn on the Saturday previous, which is the Day of the Justices meeting there. He said it was last Night, this being Monday Morning, that the Man and his Family slept in the Shed. I asked him why he did not put him into one of Lord Willoughby's Houses, or whether the Man belonged to Eddenham. He said he did belong to Eddenham, but that they had not a House at liberty. I then told him that I could not further attend to the Business at that Time; but that, if he would be at Bourn early the next Morning, it being the Day of the Sessions, I or some other Justice would attend to his Business before going into Court. It struck me the Application was an odd one, to take up such a Man under such Circumstances. The next Morning, before going into Court, I made Inquiry for Lord Willoughby's Bailiff, and asked whether he had been for a Warrant for Cam. To which Mr. Waters, a Brother Magistrate, said, "No; they will not come here again. We had all that Family with us on Saturday, asking for Harbour and Relief;" Saturday being the Justices meeting Day. Mr. Waters said, he told them they must go to the Union Workhouse. When the Man Cam told him and the Justices that they had been there, that they would not return. Upon which, being told that they could get no Relief by the Justices without doing so, the Man, in great Anger, said he would rather murder his Children and cut his own Throat than return into that Workhouse. The Wife, at the same Time, begging that they might be all committed to the House of Correction at Folkingham, as much preferable to the Workhouse. I have frequently inquired since, but have heard no more about that Family. The Wife was exceedingly desirous to be committed to the House of Correction, Mr. Waters said.

Major General Johnson.

It appears that they had actually been in the Workhouse?
I think they had been in the Workhouse a Fortnight or some such Time; but I was not there at the Time of Cam's Application on Saturday.

Did you know this Man, Cam, before?
He has frequently been before the Justices.

For what Purposes had he frequently been before the Justices?
Generally for Relief. I think he is a married Man with Three Children.

An able-bodied Man?
Quite an able-bodied Man in Appearance. I think he is a Pensioner; I know he is an old Soldier, for I have signed his Certificate.

Do you know the Amount of his Pension?
I think it was 6*d.* a Day.

What sort of a Character had the Man?
The People of Eddenham disliked him very much; at Bourn, where he had resided before, I never heard them say any thing against him.

Was he the same sort of Man as Marvin?
No; I think he was much more willing to work.

Was he a sober Man?
I never saw him drunk; I do not know that of him.

You have never inquired, probably, into his Character?
I think old Pensioners are very seldom sober Men.

What is your own Impression; that he was a well-conducted Person?
I have heard Farmers say he was a very good Labourer; but I cannot speak to his moral Character.

Had you any Communication with him after his first Application to you?
No; I had seen him in former Times. He made no Application to me.

Had you any Opportunity of asking him any further Questions?
No; it was only the Bailiff who came to me; I did not see him, Cam.

In point of fact you had no Communication with him?
No.

You do not know what the particular Circumstances respecting this Workhouse were which made him unwilling to go into it?
No, not at all.

You do not know that he was treated more severely than other People in that Workhouse?
I never heard that he was.

Did you hear of any Instance of Severity in respect to that Man in the Workhouse?
No.

Did you ever make Inquiry as to that Man's Conduct in the Workhouse?
No.

You never asked the Governor of the Workhouse how long he had been there?
No; I think if I had been at Bourn on the Saturday, I should have sent for the Workhouse Master.

Did you ever speak to any of the Guardians of the Union upon the Subject of that Man?
No, never, that I recollect.

You did not know how he conducted himself while he was in the Workhouse?
Not the least.

Or the Reason of his being turned out?
He took himself out of the Workhouse, as I understood.

Major General Johnson.

Did you know his Reason?
I never heard any Reason assigned.

You do not know whether the Man had any Reason to complain of his Treatment in the Workhouse or not?
I know his Dislike from taking himself out, and stating that he had rather cut his own own Throat than go in again; that was the only Information I had upon the Subject.

Supposing that Man had been a Person who disliked Restraint, do you think that sufficient to condemn the System of the Workhouse upon?
It is sufficient for me to state the Fact, which came to my Knowledge, of a Man who would make such an Expression that he would sooner cut his own Throat and the Throats of his Children than go in again.

You produce these as Instances of great Dislike on the Part of a great Class of Persons to go into the Workhouse?
I do; I think they are Proofs of that.

Do you now think they are Proofs of any Dislike on the Part of Classes of Persons, or only Individuals?
I think they are Proofs of the Dislike of those Individuals; that brings a Conviction to the Mind that the Dislike extends much further.

You think that is Evidence enough to satisfy your own Mind of a general Feeling?
No; I did not say that.

How came that Impression to be made in your Mind?
By my frequent Communication with the Working Classes.

Can you produce any other Instances, showing that the Working Classes in the Country are so very unwilling to be taken into that Workhouse?
Yes; the People coming to me to ask for Work or Relief have been numerous; there have been various Applications for Relief. When I have uniformly told them that they must apply to the relieving Officer or to the Board of Guardians, they have always, or if not always they most frequently have said to me, it is exceedingly hard to go into the Workhouse to be made a Prisoner of, to lose one's Liberty for the Sake of being maintained, when willing to work if they could have Work. I remember Three Men coming to me one Morning from Bourn with different Members of their Families.

In point of fact, all which that proves is, that they would rather prefer to have Relief out of Doors to the Confinement of the Workhouse?
Exactly.

You are pretty well known to be an Enemy to the Poor Law?
I am; but not to all Parts of it, for there are some I approve.

Therefore those discontented People, who wish to express their Disapprobation, were most likely to come to you?
They are more likely to come to me than anybody else, I should think.

Have you ever made Inquiry whether the Persons in the Poorhouse were maltreated in any Way?
I never heard that they were maltreated in the Workhouse, or ever said so, except that One Woman was rather abused.

Did you inquire into the Circumstances of that?
It was a Person passing along the Country; I heard no more of it.

If you heard that a Woman was ill treated, did you not go the Workhouse to inquire into the Case?
It was the being shut up for a few Hours.

If you thought it Maltreatment, why did you not go to the Workhouse and inquire into that Maltreatment?
I could only hear one Side, for the Woman was gone.

Had you heard the Woman?
No; it was merely Report. I saw something was going on when we were

Major General Johnson.

in Sessions, and I heard that this Woman, who had been passing by with some Children, had been put in for a short Time because she broke some Windows, and that they let her out, and she passed on; it amounted to nothing, in fact.

You did not think it worth inquiring into?
No.

Can you produce any Instance of Maltreatment in that Workhouse which you thought it worth while to inquire about?
I never did hear of any Maltreatment.

If there had been a Complaint made against this Woman for breaking the Windows, should you have thought it proper to inflict some Punishment under the Malicious Trespass Act?
Certainly, if I found she deserved it. The Reason they let her go was that they found some Money about her that paid for the breaking the Windows.

They found out that she was an Impostor?
Very probably.

In your Opinion of the Case, was the Punishment more than it deserved?
I think probably not; she had no Right to break the Windows.

You stated, that when Cam's Family appeared before the Board of Justices they stated that they would much rather be committed to Folkingham Gaol than return to the Workhouse?
So Mr. Waters told me.

In point of fact they were not committed to Prison at all.
No.

Therefore you have no Proof that they were deterred by the Treatment they had received from returning to the Workhouse?
I only state what was reported to me by Mr. Waters, a Brother Magistrate, who can give your Lordships better Testimony, being present.

From the Circumstances which came to your Knowledge, would you not think it a more just Inference to suppose this Family preferred a Life of Vagrancy and asking Alms to a Life in the Workhouse, and that they preferred even a Life in a Prison to a Life in a Workhouse?
No; I do not think that. I never heard of their asking Alms.

You are understood to say they have applied for Harbour and Relief to the Board of Magistrates?
Yes. I do not conceive that asking for Alms; they asked for Parish Relief.

Do you know a single Instance of Men preferring going to Prison, and actually going to Prison, to going into the Workhouse?
I have heard a good many say they did.

Do you believe every thing a Man tells you?
No.

Did this Man cut his own Throat?
I know he did not, because I should have seen the Coroner with the Inquest at the Sessions.

Do you not know that a great many People, when they are a little Angry, say what they do not seriously mean?
I think a great many do; I am sure I do myself.

Should you not, if you heard there had been any Case of Maltreatment of any Person in the Workhouse, feel it your Duty as a Magistrate immediately to inquire into it?
I think I should.

Is it not the Duty of a Magistrate to protect the Paupers in a Workhouse as well as Persons out of it?
As far as he can with the limited Power he has left.

Has he not all the Power against the Master of a Workhouse which he had against the Master of a Workhouse under the old Law?
If I read the Act right, certainly not.

Major General Johnson.

If a Workhouse Keeper ill-treats a Pauper, should you punish that Workhouse Keeper as a Magistrate?
Not individually as a Magistrate.

You must have another Magistrate?
Yes; Two Magistrates have a little more Power; but the Board of Guardians can supersede the whole Management.

Could the Board of Guardians prevent their punishing that Workhouse Master if Two Magistrates thought fit so to do?
I should not like to try the Experiment.

Why?
I think the Power of the Commissioners in London would beat the Magistrates.

If you have read the late Act of Parliament, can you turn to the Clause which enables the Poor Law Commissioners in London, or the Board of Guardians, to interfere in any criminal Case between the Magistrates and the Master of a Workhouse?
I did not say they could in a criminal Case.

Do you not consider it a Criminal Case if the Master of a Workhouse knocks down a Pauper?
I am not aware of the Remedy in that Act.

Is there any thing in that Law to prevent a Magistrate punishing a Master of a Workhouse for knocking a Pauper down? Is there any thing to prevent your committing that Master of a Workhouse to Prison?
No Question of the Kind has ever occurred.

Have you the slightest Doubt that the Magistrates have the Power of committing a Master of a Workhouse for an Assault on a Pauper, the same as he has of committing any other Man for an Assault?
Yes, or your Lordship either.

Are you aware of any Clause in the Poor Law Amendment Act that takes away that Power?
No; I do not say there is.

Then, why did you say that you should not like to interfere in the Case of the Master of the Workhouse assaulting a Pauper?
I said I did not like to put the Power of a Magistrate in Competition with that of the Commissioners in London; and I repeat that I should not like to do so.

Can the Commissioners in London prevent Two Justices committing any Person in this County that committed an Assault?
Certainly not.

Will not a Pauper have the Protection of any Law of the Country against the Master of a Workhouse that conducted himself in that Way?
To a certain Extent, I would state they have, certainly.

Is there any Possibility of the Power of the Commissioners in London coming into Competition with the Power of the Magistrates, except upon the Subject of ordering Relief?
They have nothing to do but with the Pauper and Management of the Workhouse.

In ordering Relief?
In ordering what they like. They may order the whole Place to be starved, if they like it. They may order them to be put upon a Diet by which Death may ensue.

As you do not like to try the Experiment of coming into Competition with the Commissioners as a Magistrate, is there any Point in which the Power of the Commissioners can by Possibility come into Competition with the Power of the Magistrates, particularly in their magisterial Capacity, except that of ordering Relief to the Paupers?
They have nothing to do, except with the Paupers and the Rates.

Major General Johnson.

Except their meeting and ordering Relief for the Paupers, what is at their Command?
The whole Management of the Paupers and the Workhouses.

What Management of the Paupers had the Magistrates before the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Bill, except the ordering of Relief?
None that I know of; ordering them Work or Relief.

By what Act of Parliament were the Magistrates authorized before the Poor Law Amendment Act to order Work?
I think it is upon the Act of George the Third, but I am not quite sure.

What is the Act that allowed the Magistrates to order an able-bodied Man into the Workhouse?
I never recollect an Instance of the Kind.

Are you not aware that there was no Power to order an able-bodied Man to the Workhouse?
It never having occurred I never looked into it.

Are you not aware that a Magistrate could not order Relief to any Man residing in a Gilbert's Act Union if the Overseers offered to take that Man into the Workhouse?
We have none in our Neighbourhood under that Act.

You were applied to by the Guardians of the Union for Information with respect to those Cases, and you declined to give any Information?
I did.

Will you have the goodness to state your Grounds for declining to give any Information?
I did not choose to acknowledge their inquisitorial Power.

You are aware the Guardians are bound to direct the Affairs of the Poor-house?
I think they do so.

In case of Complaint against them for not having done so, do not you think it was reasonable in them to ask for the Circumstances of the Case in which Blame had been attributed to them?
I said, at the Beginning, that I did not attribute Blame to them; if I had, I should have thought it advisable to have given them an Explanation upon it.

In the Case of Cam, it appears that his Objection to go into the Workhouse was that he had been there before; it therefore was to be inferred that the Treatment he had met with in the Workhouse was either too harsh or in some way improper, in his Opinion?
I should have inquired into Cam's Case had Lord Willoughby's Bailiff come to Bourn, as I told him to do, and have sent to the Master of the Workhouse and inquired of him; but, hearing no more of Cam or Lord Willoughby's Bailiff, the Thing dropped, and I thought no more about it.

Although you thought no more about it you took care it should not drop, for you mentioned it publicly; you preserved it in your own Mind as one of the Grounds for this Statement you made at the Crown and Anchor?
I did.

Do not you think it would have been better if, before you stated it at the Crown and Anchor, you had stated it to the Board of Guardians, or given them the Means of inquiring into it?
I think not; it appeared a Fact, and I stated it as a Fact.

Would it not have altered the Fact if the Man had misbehaved himself?
It would not have altered the Fact that the Man would not go back again.

Would it not have altered the Fact as to the Reason?
That it might have done, as to the Reason.

You do not know any thing but from the Statement of the Man?
I stated it as an Instance of the Dislike of the Working Classes to go into the Workhouse.

Major General Johnson.

Do you consider this Man as a fair Specimen of the Feeling of the Lower Classes?
I think that Man conveyed a great deal of the Feeling of that Class of Persons.

Cam is also a Pensioner?
I think he is; I know he was Three or Four Years ago, because I have occasionally signed his Certificate.

What do you mean by disposing of his Pension?
Men dispose of their Pensions sometimes.

To whom?
They sell them to the Parish, only from Quarter to Quarter; the Parish can require a Quarter's Payment.

You are aware that the Parish can only get a Man's Pension by a Proceeding which takes place before them, and that is transmitted to the Office in London, and then the Payment is made not to the Pensioner, but to the Parish Officers?
Yes.

In every other Case, except where allowed by the Government to commute their Pension, if a Man sells his Pension, he is not only doing an illegal Act, but the Person who lends him the Money only procures it from his Honesty, the Man himself receiving it?
Yes; but it sometimes happens that the Man gets it in advance from the Parish, making it over to the Parish for a Quarter. I believe he has a Right to do that.

The Parish has the Power of lending Money upon a Pension?
Yes; and the Man may be left destitute for the Remainder of the Time.

The Committee have before them a Report of what you said at the Crown and Anchor; it says, "General Johnson, M. P., said he would mention One Fact in proof of the Reluctance the Poor entertained to entering one of the Union Workhouses. In the Parish of Bourn in Lincolnshire a poor Man who was out of Work applied to the Guardians of the Poor for Relief. They offered him Admission to one of the Union Workhouses. He declared that he would rather die than enter such a Place, and refused to accept the Offer." To which of those Cases you have mentioned to the Committee does that Statement refer?
I think to Marvin's; that occurred first, and probably was stated first.

In that Case he did not apply to the Guardians?
I do not know. I stated before that I did not know whether he did or not.

According to this Report he applied to the Guardians?
He had either applied to the relieving Officer or the Guardians before he came to me; I think to the relieving Officer.

Did you, before you made that Speech, ever ascertain the Fact of his having applied either to the Board of Guardians or the relieving Officer?
No.

You say that "within a Week afterwards that Man was found dead in the Field, having absolutely chosen rather to submit to Death by Starvation than enter one of the Workhouses established under the present System;" how do you know that Fact?
I do not remember whether I used the Word "Starvation." I think I said thus: "this Man preferred Death to entering the Workhouse."

First of all you state that the Man came to you, but you do not know whether he had applied to the relieving Officer of the Board of Guardians; then you state that the Man was at the Time in good Health, and in a good State?
When he came to me he was apparently in a good State.

Then he was found dead Four Days afterwards, and you do not know what the Man did in the meantime. How do you know that he did not apply

Major General Johnson.

to the Officer, that he was not refused, or any Circumstance of the Case whatever?

I know the Fact exactly as I state it. He applied to me for Relief, and said he would rather die than go into the Workhouse, and then within a Week he was found dead by the Road Side.

Are you sure that he died by Starvation?
There is a Copy of the Coroner's Inquest.

That says "Inclemency of the Weather." Starvation would rather mean Deficiency of Food?
It may imply a Deficiency of Food.

Do you not think it would have been better to have been more particular, than to have used this general Term "Starvation," which certainly would mean Starvation by Hunger?
It might.

Do you know that in point of fact the Man did die from Starvation?
I do not know that; I said he was found dead.

Have you any other Circumstances on which you found the Opinion that the Poor Law is so unpopular with those Classes?
Yes; a great Number of Persons have applied to me for Relief.

You state another particular Instance, in this Speech at the Crown and Anchor: "And so strong was the Feeling on the Part of the Inhabitants of some Parishes against the present System, that he knew One Instance in which the Inhabitants, hearing that Thirty poor Men out of Employ had no Resource but becoming Inmates of one of the new Workhouses, entered into voluntary Subscriptions to prevent their doing so, and supported them until they could obtain Employment?"
That was in the Town of Bourn.

Were you a Subscriber to that Fund?
No, I was not.

Have you ever seen that Subscription List?
They altered the Subscription afterward to Road Rate. I think it was between Thirty and Forty Men. It was during the Inclemency of the Weather they applied to the Board of Guardians for Relief, being all or most of them Men with Families, and I believe many of them of exceedingly good Character. Having been refused Relief by the Board of Guardians without coming into the House, the Inhabitants of the Town of Bourn took up the Thing, and said they would subscribe to put those Men to work rather than that they should go into the Union. When they found it to be so general they said it would be better to have a Highway Rate, in order to employ those Men and take Means to set them to work, which I believe they did the next Day by raising Stone for the Road; and they kept them at that Employ during the Remainder of the severe Weather, as I have heard.

It was a voluntary Subscription on the Part of the Inhabitants of Bourn, for the Purpose of giving Employment to those poor Persons?
Yes, rather than let them go into the Workhouse, they having been refused Out-door Relief.

Did you never know an Instance of a general Subscription in Time of Frost for the Purpose of employing the Poor of any particular Place?
I have never known one in that Part of the Country before. I have known several such Subscriptions.

Do you know the Persons who contributed to this Subscription?
I believe it was general, of the People in the Town.

It was a voluntary Subscription?
Yes; I think it was generally thought it would save Trouble to make it a Road Rate.

Those were Persons of large Families?
I think most of them were.

So

Major General Johnson.

So that in all Probability the Subscription raised to set those People at work saved he Rates which would have been raised for the Purpose of keeping those People and their Families if they had gone into the Workhouse?
I cannot answer that.

Have you any Doubt of it?
I cannot say the Object avowed was to save their going into the Workhouse.

Was that circulated in any printed Handbill?
No; not that I ever saw.

How do you know that?
A Man of the Name of Daniel, a Bookseller, to whose Shop I go, and another Gentleman, mentioned to me that they had been raising this Rate to set the Men to work.

You stated that the first Object was to raise a private Subscription, that was abandoned, and they considered it a Highway Rate?
Yes; so I understood.

Have you any Knowledge that the Highway Rates have greatly increased in the County of Lincoln, in consequence of the able-bodied Labourers being employed on the Roads, though the Poor Rates have been decreased?
I think they have been increased slightly; but I should not say considerably.

Had many of those Persons been receiving Relief out of the Workhouse before?
I understood none at that particular Time; I think it was the Second Week of the Frost they were thrown out of Employment.

Those others who applied to you and would not go into the Workhouse, had they been receiving Parish Relief before?
Some of them had not; I think One out of the Three who came one Morning said he had formerly had some Parochial Relief.

Were there several?
There were several applied to me, but I told them I had not Power to order Relief.

With respect to those who had Relief under Orders by you, was it more or less than they would have cost if they had been maintained in the Workhouse?
I think less would have maintained them out.

In what Circumstances were they?
I know One Family of Seven Children, who I have heard being put into the Workhouse, in a short Time it came to the large Amount of 27*s.*; a Man and his Wife, and Seven Children, at 3*s.* a Head; but that same Family would have maintained themselves, with what they could get in one Way or another, during the same Period, I think, for 9*s.* out.

You state that as a Reason in your Mind to show that the Feeling on the Part of the Inhabitants of this Parish of Bourn was strong against the present System, that they entered into a Subscription to employ those Thirty Men?
On that particular Occasion.

How do you know that their Subscription arose out of this Feeling?
They merely told me it was to prevent those People going into the Workhouse.

How many of them?
They told me the Object in subscribing was to prevent so large a Number of Persons being put from their Houses into the Workhouse.

What was their Objection to those Persons being put into the Workhouse?
I really cannot tell what other Persons Objections were.

Was it the Severity of the Discipline in the Workhouse?
I cannot tell.

Major General Johnson.

Was it that if they were sent to the Workhouse they would be more expensive to the Rate-payers?
I think it would be more expensive to the Rate-payers.

You believe that that Subscription was the Result of a Calculation that it would be less expensive?
I do not say it was or was not.

You do not know that that Subscription arose from a Feeling on the Part of those Persons to keep them out of the Workhouse, where they would be maltreated?
I do not think that was their view; I think their view was to keep the People out of the Workhouse; they did not like disturbing so many Families. Those Men were, some of them if not all, settled with their Families in Houses in Bourn.

How does that show the Feeling of those Persons against the Workhouse?
Those Thirty or Forty able-bodied Men had declined going into the Workhouse; they must have been all taken in; that is a Condition of their relieving them.

How long was it before the Subscription took place?
I think the following Day.

They had in point of fact very little Time to consider how far it would have been worth their while to go in?
I think the Expression of one of the Subscribers was, that they could not bear to see so many idle Men about the Streets. The Subscription of the Inhabitants was entered into on the next Day, I think, and on the Saturday they were set to work.

Consequently those Men had very little Time to judge how far it was advisable for them to submit to the Condition of going into the Workhouse?
They had refused. The Guardians met on the Thursday; they applied to the Guardians for Relief, and the Guardians said, "We cannot give Relief, whatever our Inclination may be, because we are ordered not to do it without taking into the House." They refused to go into the House, and consequently they went away.

Every Man would prefer living in his own House to going into the Workhouse, if he could get the same Advantages in every respect?
Yes; and with a good deal less Advantages.

Does that prove there is any thing in the Conduct of the Workhouse Keeper improper or cruel?
I never said there was any thing, further than being very oppressive.

Nor does it prove any thing more than that the Men would have preferred living in their own Houses?
They would have sooner taken One Third in their own Houses.

Were those Men employed in breaking Stones by Task Work?
I believe they were set to Task Work.

On former Occasions, when the Magistrates used to order them Relief, was it on condition that they should work for it?
Yes; I do not recollect an Instance of any thing being ordered by a Magistrate in the way of Relief without Work.

At what Kind of Work; upon the Road?
We left that to the Parish.

You cannot speak to whether it was Task Work?
We left it to the Parish. It was always Task Work, if that could be found, in my Parish.

Do you mean to say that the Magistrates ordered the Men to be put to work?
The Magistrates frequently ordered a Parish to find Work or Relief, giving them the Option.

Major General Johnson.

Had the Magistrates Power to order Work?
I think they had; either Work or Relief. I think there was perfect Power to order Work or Relief. The 43d of Elizabeth perfectly sanctioned that.

Does not that Act delegate to the Overseers to give the Work?
The Magistrates leave to the Overseers to give to the Men Relief or Work. Then the Question they ask is, What are they to have, if they are at Work? They are to have enough to maintain them, — a single Man 3*s.* 6*d.* or 4*s.*, according to the Price of Wheat.

Then the Overseer might, if he chose, employ that Man on his Farm, and give him only 3*s.* 6*d.* or 4*s.*?
No; I think they could not have done so. That would have been a very just Ground for objecting to the Rate, that that would have been a false Application of the Money raised by Rate.

Did you ever tell them that they could not employ them upon their own Farm?
It was never done in our Neighbourhood.

Were they never employed as Rounds-men?
Occasionally they have been; but I do not believe that many were so employed.

How long did this Subscription continue?
The Men were employed during the Remainder of the severe Weather.

About how many Weeks?
I cannot tell; but they were employed till they got to their old Occupations.

Was there an Impression that the Paupers were treated with more Severity at that Workhouse than at others in the Neighbourhood?
I think not. I think they adhere very strictly to the Orders of the Commissioners.

Can you state what Kind of Labour the Inmates of Bourn Union are engaged on in the Workhouse?
I do not know.

You do not know whether there is any Employment that can justly be considered as Labour?
No. I think they have a Mill.

You have no Persons admitted into that Workhouse on the Mendicity List?
No; not that I know of.

Have you ever visited the Workhouse?
I have, once.

Do you know the Population contained in the Union of Bourn?
I think it is about 18,000 or 19,000.

For what Number is the Union Workhouse calculated?
I think Three hundred and twenty.

Do you know the Number of Paupers usually in it?
I do not think they ever have had more than One hundred and twenty.

Are you acquainted with the Regulations of the Poor Law Commissioners under which the Board of Guardians act?
I have seen some of them, not all.

Have you seen those of the Bourn Union?
I cannot say that I have ever heard them.

Before the Subscription was raised, those Thirty or Forty Men had already refused to go to the Workhouse?
I understood they refused to go to the Workhouse, on condition of not having Relief without doing so.

Did they not deprive themselves of all Claim to Relief by having refused to go into the Workhouse?
I conceive so.

Major General Johnson.

Therefore those Subscriptions could not be in relief of the Rates, if they had deprived themselves of any Claim?

I do not think that the Rates occurred to the Subscribers one way or another. Bourn is a small Place, and it was exceedingly disagreeable to People in the Town to see Thirty or Forty Labourers walking up and down the Streets, and they thought it preferable to enter into this Subscription to set them to work.

Would the Money subscribed lessen the Amount of the Rates raised for the Relief of the Poor?

I think not.

Are you a Rate-payer to Bourn?

My Estate pays an annual Sum of 20*l.* to the Poor of Bourn, levied on a certain Wood on the Estate.

You did not subscribe?

I did not; I was never applied to.

As far as you are yourself a Rate-payer, were you not benefited by the Subscription given to those People?

I received no Benefit one way or another. I am not a Rate-payer.

Supposing they must have been maintained either by Subscription or out of the Poor Rates, were not those Persons who did not subscribe Gainers to that Amount?

No; for the Men, having refused the House, were precluded.

Might not they have gone in the next Day?

I conceive not till the next Thursday.

Would not the relieving Officer have had the Power to admit them the next Day?

I conceive not.

Why do you conceive not?

Because I think the Board of Guardians had settled the Question for the Week.

Are you aware that the relieving Officer may give an Order for the Admission of any one, if he thinks fit?

Very likely.

May not the Officer give an Order for their Admission at any Time he thinks fit?

Yes; or refuse it, if he thinks fit.

May not every relieving Officer give an Admission to every Person in Necessity who applies; and is it not his Duty, under his Instructions?

Very likely.

Would not the relieving Officers or the Parish Officers have been bound to give Admission to the Workhouse to every one of those Men, if they thought they were in Circumstances of such Necessity as required it?

The Act professes that to be the Case.

Are you not aware that both Overseers and relieving Officers are subject to a Penalty for neglecting to discharge that Part of their Duty?

I never recollect any Instance.

Do you know whether every one of those Thirty Men refused the Orders, or whether they took the Orders from the Board of Guardians and did not act upon them?

Certainly, they applied to the Board of Guardians for Relief. I believe their coming so numerously was owing to their being at Leisure; and the Board of Guardians said they had no Power to give them Out-door Relief; that, if they wished it, they might come into the House. They refused, and went away, and were idling about the Town the rest of the Day; and the next Morning the People disliked seeing them, and entered into a Subscription for their Relief, the Men declaring they would not go into the House.

Do you know whether an Order was given or was not given?
I never heard that any Order was given. *Major General Johnson.*

Are you aware, having read the Poor Law Amendment Act, that any Justice of the Peace has Power to order Relief in case of Men being refused Admittance into the House?
I never heard of any one going to the House and being refused Admittance.

Are you not aware, that when a Pauper comes to apply to the Board of Guardians, the relieving Officer is in the Room at the same Time.
Not always.

Are they not generally?
I believe they are.

Were you ever present at the Board of Guardians?
No; and I never intend to be while the Act is in its present Shape.

Do you think that the relieving Officer would refuse them the Order, if they applied for it, if he knew that the Persons whose Servant he was had offered them an Order and they had declined it?
I think it is probable, under those Circumstances, he would not.

Would not those Thirty or Forty Persons think it likely the relieving Officer would have given each of them an Order the Moment they applied?
I cannot say whether they would or not; I think he ought to have done so, certainly.

You are not aware of any Instances of the relieving Officers of the Bourn Union not having done their Duty?
I have never heard that they have not done their Duty.

Are you aware that by Clause Fifty-four it is enacted, "in case any Overseer should refuse or neglect to give such necessary Relief in any such Case of Necessity to poor Persons not settled nor usually residing in the Parish to which such Overseer belongs, it shall and may be lawful for any Justice of the Peace to order the said Overseer, by Writing under his Hand and Seal, to give such temporary Relief in Articles of absolute Necessity, as the Case shall require?"
That has reference to Medical Relief.

It has been suggested that the Subscription might be only intended as a more economical Mode of supporting those Persons than if they had been ordered into the Workhouse; this Subscription was, in its Origin, not general?
It became so general that they decided to drop the Subscription and make it a Road Rate; in the first instance it lay among a very few.

Do you suppose it would have been more economical for those Persons to have subscribed than to have paid their Rate, if they had gone into the Workhouse?
If they had gone into the Workhouse it would have cost the Parish more.

The Question refers to the Individuals?
I cannot say; I do not know who the Subscribers were.

It became, from a voluntary Subscription, a compulsory Rate?
It became a compulsory Road Rate, to which there was no Objection made by the Parish.

Was the Meeting at the Crown and Anchor a large Meeting?
No, not a very large Meeting, at the Time I made the Remark.

How many Persons were there there?
I do not suppose there were above 120 or 130 Persons. The Meeting afterwards adjourned to another Room, a larger one; but, as far as I can recollect, I think there were not more than 120 or 130 Persons present when I made my Statement.

You have not made these Statements any where else but at the Crown and Anchor?
No.

Major General Johnson.

Are the Members of the Board of Guardians of the Bourn Union respectable Men?
I believe that generally they are; they have changed Two or Three Times; some of them have been re-elected and some of them changed.

Who is the Chairman?
I think Lord Willoughby is Chairman, and Major Handley Deputy Chairman.

Is he a Magistrate?
He is a Magistrate, but he very seldom acts.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Mr. A. Kingston.

Mr. ANTHONY KINGSTON is called in, and examined:

YOU are Churchwarden and Overseer of the Parish of Shalbourne in the County of Berks?
Yes.

That is in the Hungerford Union, is it not?
It is.

Your Name appears appended to an Application made to the Poor Law Commissioners with regard to a Man of the Name of Isaac Watts?
It is.

What is Isaac Watts?
A Farmer's Labourer.

Is he a married Man?
Yes.

How many Children has he?
Seven.

How old is the eldest of those Children?
I believe between Thirteen or Fourteen; somewhere thereabout.

Is it a Girl or a Boy?
A Girl.

What is the Second?
A Girl.

What Age is she?
I really do not know. I know the eldest is between Thirteen and Fourteen; the others come in Rotation afterwards; I cannot speak to their Ages.

Did this Isaac Watts apply to you as Overseer for Relief?
He applied to the relieving Officer.

How do you know that?
I was there, and heard him and saw him.

Were you with the relieving Officer at the Time, or did you go with the Man?
I was with the relieving Officer when Watts came; I do not think he came; he was out at Labour, and his Wife came and applied for Relief; I was at the Time with the relieving Officer; he lived near my House.

When she came to apply for Relief, what passed between her and the relieving Officer?
He said he had no Power to relieve her, but she must apply to the Board of Guardians.

On what Ground did she apply for Relief?
For the Children, for Food and Clothing; but Food principally.

Did he go into the Man's Case?
He took the Age of the Father and Mother, and the Children's Ages.

Did

Mr. A. Kingston.

Did he inquire into his Earnings?
He did.

Did he inquire into the possible Earnings of the Wife and Children?
She said none of them could earn any thing; that they had no Employment if they could; but that they were not able to earn any thing; that they could get no Employment at that Time of the Year.

What was the Time of the Year?
In last January.

During the Frost?
Yes.

After he had made those Inquiries what did he say to the Woman?
He told her to come to the Board of Guardians the next Day they sat.

When was that?
That was the Friday; the next Wednesday was the Day they sat.

At Hungerford?
Yes.

How far is Hungerford from Shalbourne?
Four Miles.

Are you sure that Application was in January?
I believe it was about the 26th of January, then or thereabout.

Did she go to the Guardians to your Knowledge?
I believe the Father went to the Guardians, and I believe the Mother both.

Do you mean that Isaac Watts went?
Yes; and I think his Wife.

Were you there?
No, I was not; a Guardian was not there.

Do you know any thing of what passed there?
No; I only know they got an Order for the House for the Father and Mother and all the Children.

You saw that Order?
I did not see that Order, but they made Application to me to convey them in, and I got a Cart and conveyed them there.

What Time was it that you signed and sent up this Paper to the Poor Law Commissioners?
I believe it was in February; I cannot state the Date; about the 3d of March, I think. I had an Answer to it.

Had you, before signing and sending up that, made any Application to the Guardians of the Poor of this Description?
No, never.

How came you not to apply first of all to the Guardians, before you applied to the Poor Law Commissioners?
I did not think I was authorized to do so; I did not think I was authorized to make Application to the Board of Guardians.

Do you mean to say you thought that the Board of Guardians were confined by such Rules that it would have been of no Use, or that they would not have allowed you?
They would not have allowed me to come into the Room, I conceive.

You thought they would not answer your Application?
Yes.

In the Month of February, when you wrote this Letter to the Poor Law Commissioners, was the Man at the Time in the Workhouse?
Yes; the Man was, at the Time the Letter was written, in the House.

Mr. A. Kingston.

How long did he remain after the Letter was written?
I do not know how long he was there after the Letter was sent; but he was there Sixteen Days; then he came out.

How came he to come out of the Workhouse?
He said he could not have his Health there; he looked a great deal worse when he came out, but his Children were better. He said he should have been very ill if he had stayed.

Was he healthy before he went in?
No; he is not a very strong-bodied Man; but he continued his Work up to the Time of going into the Workhouse?

What was that Work?
Threshing Corn.

For whom?
For me.

Had he plenty of Work of that Kind before that?
I continued to employ him.

Had you told him at the Time he applied for further Relief that he must provide himself thereafter, for you could no longer employ him, or any thing of that Kind?
Oh no; he complained to me that he had not Food enough for his Family.

Did you pay him by the Piece?
No; I had a great many Applications for Labour, and I could not employ them by Piece, for I found I must employ a great many less. I employed him by the Day, whether he earned any thing or not.

How much a Week did you pay him?
8*s.*

He was in constant Employment at 8*s.* a Week?
Yes.

What is the present Rate of Wages in that Part of the Country?
8*s.* for Threshing, and other Labour generally 1*s.* more, if the Man was following Sheep or Horses.

What Sort of Corn was he employed threshing?
Barley.

How much does he thresh in a Week?
I suppose about Six Quarters we generally expect them to thresh.

How long was he about doing that?
Six Days.

You got that Quantity of Barley threshed for 8*s.*?
Yes.

Whether he threshed Barley or Wheat, you would have equally paid him 8*s.* a Week?
Yes; whether he did any thing or nothing; whether he had any other Work I paid him that, and a good many others too.

He has long worked for you?
Yes; some Years.

How many Years?
He says Seven; I did not know how many Years it was till he told me.

Have you any Doubt about it?
I think it is thereabout.

In consequence of his telling you this, did you say any thing with respect to his Wages; "I must give you something more," or any thing of that Kind?
No; he was very glad that I should continue him in Employment, for he knew that I did not want so many Men.

There were some out of Employment?
Yes; a Number of Men who applied to me for Work, but I had no more Labour.

Is 8*s.* a Week the general Price for a Man's Labour in that Part of the Country?
Yes.

Can you get Work done at that Rate?
Yes; plenty.

Supposing he had been dissatisfied with the Wages you were giving him and had quitted, he would not have found Employment anywhere else at a higher Rate than yours?
I do not think he could. I tell all of them, and have done for a long Time, as soon as they can get more Wages I will discharge them.

While he was in the Workhouse of course he did not work for you?
No.

When he came out of the Workhouse did he come back to you and work?
Yes, he came back to me; I found him Work; he had no Means of getting any Food without.

You employed him?
I did.

And gave him again the 8*s.* a Week?
Yes.

Did the Family come back again into the Cottage?
Yes.

Is it his Cottage?
He rents it of me.

What is the Rent?
£2 a Year.

Is that the usual Rent of such a Cottage, or something less?
It is about the usual Rent of such a Cottage.

Is there a Garden to it?
Yes.

He had no particular Advantage from hiring the Cottage of you as his Master?
Not any. I let out a Field I had to the Poor in Allotments, and he had a little Lot, about Twenty Poles; that I let him have to employ himself in, and set some Potatoes.

Do you charge any thing for those Allotments?
Yes; I charge them at the Rate of 3*d.* a Pole.

Do you plough it or dung it for that?
I dung it with their Manure, if they can get any; and I fetch in their Potatoes, their Crop, for them for nothing.

Do you find them Manure?
No; if they can find Manure I do the Carriage for them.

Is there any Ground attached to his Cottage?
About Four Poles; it is very small.

He gets a House, Garden, and Twenty Poles for 2*l.* 5*s.*?
Yes.

In your Judgment, can a Labourer in that County, supposing him to have Five Children, live upon those Wages, and with those Advantages which have been referred to?
I do not think he can get Food enough.

Mr. A. Kingston.

What do you reckon to be Food enough for this Man and his Children and Wife?

We used to reckon that a Gallon Loaf of Bread would just keep them. Before the new Poor Law we used to allow Two Gallons for the Man, and One for each Child and the Wife; and if his Labour Wages for himself and his Family fell short of that it was made up by Relief.

Supposing he had been under that Arrangement under the old Poor Law, what would he have had per Week, either in Money or in Kind?

I should suppose Three Gallon Loaves, or thereabout.

What would be the Price of that?

The Contract Price is 1*s.* 1*d.* a Gallon, but I believe the Retail Price is 1*s.* 3*d.* or 1*s.* 4*d.*

He would have had the 8*s.* a Week from you, the Cottage and Land, and those Three Gallon Loaves?

Yes.

Were the Wages as high before the passing of the Act as since?

No; the Wages were, for a Year or Two, as low as 7*s.* a Week, when the Price of Bread was low; when it rose in Price they rose to 8*s.*

They were at 7*s.* a Week at the Time of the passing of the Act, were not they?

Yes.

And they rose immediately after?

Yes.

What were they before the passing of the Act?

7*s.* a Week.

Did that Rise of Price take place on account of the high Price of Corn?

The Rise in the Price of the Gallon Loaf.

You say that whatever Wages he got from you he would have that besides the Three Loaves of Bread allowed him?

He would have sufficient to have made up a Loaf for every Child and his Wife, and Two for himself.

Reckoning himself and his Wife and Children, would he have had those Three Loaves besides the Wages?

I have not reckoned up what his Wages would have bought, but whatever they were they would have been made up by way of Relief; that is the Way in which he was relieved for Years.

What is the Value of each Gallon Loaf?

The Contract Price is 1*s.* 1*d.*

That would have been Seven Thirteen-pences for his Children, and Two for himself; and how much for the Wife?

One for the Wife.

That would be 10*s.* 10*d.*, would it not?

Yes.

Do you imagine that would have been sufficient for him to have supported himself, his Wife, and his Seven Children?

They used to be much better off when they received that Amount than they are now, because they receive nothing now besides their Wages.

Were not this Girl of Thirteen Years old and the next able to do any thing for their Livelihood?

There was nothing for them to do; but they were weakly Children, and could not stand the cold Weather.

Do not Girls in your Neighbourhood go out to Service at Thirteen Years of Age?

Yes, if they can get Service.

Mr. A. Kingston.

Do you know whether this Girl had been out at Service?
No.

Why not?
She had no Means of getting Clothes for her Service; and if she had, I do not know anybody that would take her. They are taken at Fourteen or Fifteen Years of Age for Nurse Girls and so on, where they can get them out.

Your Application to the Poor Law Commissioners was, that some of those Children should be taken into the Workhouse?
Yes.

How many?
I suppose the Man could have kept Four.

So that he was to be allowed for Three?
Yes.

Then the taking Three would have been the same thing as if you had given him the additional Loaves for those Three?
It would have been the same thing for them; but we should have paid more than allowing the Children the Bread by taking them in.

The Measures you took upon which you petitioned the Poor Law Commissioners was the Way in which you used to relieve before the New Poor Law?
No; our Petition was that they would take a Part of the Family, not the whole of the Children.

In consequence of the Act the Allowances have been taken from them subsequent to the new Poor Law; they have none of them Allowances under that Law?
No.

You say that he had worked for you for Seven Years?
Yes.

Is he a good Man?
He is a very good Labourer; not a very strong Man.

He is a quiet well-conducted Man?
Yes.

Do you not think it worth your while to give a Man of that Sort, who has been working for you for some Years, a little additional Relief?
I have. The Answer to our Memorial was, that we should take into Consideration the People about us; but I happened to have a great many Families about me, more than I was able to consider.

Are there other Farmers in that Parish?
Yes; but they cannot afford to do much out of their own Families.

This Man returned to work with you?
Yes.

How has he supported his Family from that Time?
He has supported them as he did before, getting any Charity bestowed upon him, and his Wages; that is all he has.

Have any of the Children been sick or ill in consequence?
No, I do not know that they have; the Wife has been ill lately, and has had the Union Medical Man to her, I know; but I believe she is better again.

What was the Nature of her Illness?
I do not know what the Cause of it was. Mr. Hall visited the House after we sent that Memorial, and I was with him when he visited the House. I thought her in a very bad Condition. She informed Mr. Hall that she had had nothing but Bread and Water and Potatoes for Two Days; that she had not had a Drop of Tea, and a young Child hanging at her Breast at the same Time, and only Two Ounces of Tea that Week, and could not get trusted with any more. Whether she was ill for Want I do not know.

Mr. A. Kingston.

What did they do for her in the Workhouse?
They were separated there, the Father from the Wife and Children. They stayed Sixteen Days; the Man said he was not well, and would not stay any longer.

Did you see the Medical Person after he had seen her?
I have not seen him since that I gave him an Order to attend her.

You do not know whether he reported upon her Case?
No.

You say she told the Medical Man she had had nothing but Potatoes and Bread?
She told him so when he visited her.

In consequence of his visiting her do you know that any Relief was ordered for her?
There is generally some Mutton ordered in case the Medical Officer directs it. He orders a Pound of Mutton in addition to the Pay. I do not know whether he has done it in her Case or not.

Since that Time has she said any thing to you with respect to her Treatment?
No; I know nothing of her Case subsequently. Her Husband told me one Day she was better.

Has the Husband come to work as usual?
Yes.

Has he threshed as much since he was in the Workhouse as he did before?
I do not know; I have not employed him so much in threshing since that. He was about as strong now as he was before. He looked very ill when he came out, but the Children looked better.

Did he complain to you of the Workhouse?
Yes; he complained of the Confinement, and said he had been very ill there, and stated he should have been very ill if he had stayed. He had worked at the Mill in the Day. I do not know that he complained particularly of the Diet. He said once he could have eaten more, or something of that kind.

Since he came out he has recovered himself, earning this 8*s*.?
He has earned no more.

And with that Earning he has recovered his Health?
Yes; he is better. He is not a very strong Man; he is a quiet sober Man.

Is he about as strong as he was before?
Yes; I think about as strong.

Under the old Poor Law did he receive those Allowances you have spoken of?
Oh yes; he received the Allowances I have mentioned.

At that Time was the Man able to do more Work than he has been since?
Yes; I think he was stronger then; he was not so old by Two or Three Years.

Taking his Age into consideration, was he a stronger Man then than he is now?
I think he was rather stronger than he is now.

What Age is he now?
I suppose he is about Five and forty.

He would be One or Two and forty when the Law was altered?
Yes. I know his Age was taken when he entered the House, and I think it was about Forty-five.

Suppose that Two of his Children had been taken into the Workhouse, there were other People under the same Circumstances in the Village?
Several.

There would have been a considerable Number to be taken into the Workhouse?

There would have been some if they had taken them; some would not have permitted it, they would have kept them at Home and half starved them; they are disgusted at the Name of the Workhouse, and we cannot reconcile them to it.

They would keep them out in consequence of that Disgust?
Yes; and live on very little.

Did you induce this Man to go to the Workhouse?
When he applied to the relieving Officer, the relieving Officer told him he had no Means of giving him Relief; that he was not authorized to do so. I said "You will starve your Children if you do not go in; you had better go in;" and then in a few Days he applied for an Order to go in, and then he asked me to convey him there in a Cart.

Are you in the habit of employing any able-bodied single Men?
Sometimes I do.

What is the Price you give a single Man?
5*s.* or 6*s.* perhaps; seldom any more. Young Boys and Men I try to drive them away if I can.

Where to?
To the Railroad; or somewhere where they can get more Wages.

Do you think, for single Men and able-bodied Men, it is a sufficient Remuneration for their Labour giving them 5*s.* a Week?
No; I wish them to get more, and employ them just to get Bread for the Time.

When you persuaded that Man to go to the Workhouse, did you take any single Men into your Employ while he was gone?
Not more than I had before; I did not increase the Number.

Have you more of the 5*s.* a Week Men than you had?
They come to go with the Horses and so on.

Had you any to whom you were giving 5*s.* a Week?
Not full-grown Men.

Any Lad of Eighteen?
Yes; and less than that.

Was the threshing going on when this Man was in the Workhouse?
It was nearly all threshed; I had none threshed.

Do you employ any of those Boy Lads for Threshers?
No.

Did you ever employ any of those Men at 5*s.* a Week for threshing?
We gave them more than that; but I have so many Men with Families, I seldom employ a single Man. One I employ sometimes for Field Work or going to plough, sometimes grubbing, sometimes cleaving Wood, or something of that Kind. I seldom employ young Men for threshing.

Can you get a Man in your Parish to grub for 5*s.* a Week?
Yes.

Do they pay for the Repairs of their Tools, or you, out of that 5*s.* a Week?
I only find them the Tools.

They have 5*s.* a Week for grubbing?
6*s.* sometimes; I pay them according to their Strength. I have Two Men to go with the Horses, whom I do not pay more than 4*s.* a Week to.

Are you to be understood that you pay the Man because he has a Family, or from the Work he has to do?
From the Family, entirely. When they have got a Wife and a House, whether they have any Family or not, we consider that they ought to have 8*s.* a Week, and set them to work.

Mr. A. Kingston.

You have resided some Time in that Parish?
Yes.

Do you not know Instances in which young Men were driven to marry early because the Farmers would not employ them but at very inadequate Wages?
They have lately employed them better.

Then they are not driven to marry now?
I do not know that they are driven to marry; but they did marry very imprudently.

Did they not sometimes say, "if you do not give me Work, I will marry and come to the Parish"?
I do not know that they did say that; but they did marry imprudently.

You do not approve of the Separation of the Father and Mother from their Children in the Workhouse?
No; I cannot say I do.

Then how do you reconcile your petitioning the Poor Law Commissioners to take away the Children from both, and put them into the Workhouse?
I think that is very different from separating the Father from the Mother and the Children.

In fact, the Father and Mother would be, while they were separated from each other, separated from the Children, if they were taken into the Workhouse, would they not?
It would be pretty much like sending them to School; we part with our Children at Eight or Nine, and send them to School; I have with mine.

You see no Fault in sending Children to School?
No.

Are not the Children in the present Day better taken care of and better educated than they were formerly?
Yes; they take Pains to teach them.

Are the Guardians of your Parish respectable?
Very respectable. I have been chosen a Guardian myself since this Affair; it was against my Wish.

Who was Guardian before you?
Mr. Cundell of Shalbourne.

You would formerly, when not a Guardian, have thought yourself authorized to speak to the Guardians, and to represent to them the Hardship of any Case that might come under your Knowledge, should not you?
Yes.

Now, being a Guardian, you would not think it an improper Interference with you, if any Person or Pauper came to you as a Guardian, and detailed to you the Circumstances of the Case of any Pauper in that Parish?
Not at all.

On the contrary, you would be much obliged to them?
I should.

You would feel it your Duty to bring that Case forward at the next Meeting of your Board?
Yes.

How many is your Workhouse capable of holding?
I never visited it. I was to have visited it Yesterday, but I was called here. I suppose about Four hundred.

Is the Board of Guardians a respectable Board in general?
The Chairman is a very respectable Gentleman; and, in fact, a great many Guardians are respectable.

Who is the Chairman?
Mr. Cherry, a Magistrate, living close by.

Mr. A. Kingston.

What is the greatest Number who have been in the Workhouse?
I cannot say. I do not think there are more than a Hundred. It is capable of holding a great many more than have ever been there.

Did Isaac Watts himself ever apply to the Guardians to have any of his Children taken from him and put into the Workhouse?
No, never. He applied for Relief.

Then they sent him into the Workhouse?
Yes; they said they could give him no Relief, but that he might have an Order, and go with all his Family into the Workhouse.

After he came out, did he ever apply to the Guardians himself to have some of his Children taken into the Workhouse, he remaining out?
Not that I know of.

How came you to do that?
We wished the System to be general. We had several more Families in the Parish. Some of them would have been glad to have parted with them; and I dare say some would not.

Why do you wish it?
Because we knew they would be better off, with their Wages, if some of their Children were in the Workhouse.

You thought it would be cheaper to take some of them into the Workhouse, than to take the whole Family?
Certainly.

What are the Names of the other Families, some of whom have wished to be taken in?
James Townsend is one.

What is the Name of the other?
William Knight.

Any other?
George Waters.

Any other?
John Rolf.

Any other?
Charles Rolf.

Any other?
William Baker.

Are those all able-bodied Men?
Yes.

Have they ever applied for Relief themselves?
Not to me.

Have they ever been in the Workhouse?
One of them, Knight, has.

Have they ever applied to have their Children taken into the Workhouse?
Not that I know of.

Is it not likely you should have known it if it had been so?
Yes, I think very likely; but it was not proper for me to go to the Board; they would have refused them, therefore they did not apply.

Do you think they are in a State of great Suffering?
I think they were very badly off during the Winter.

Were they all employed by you?
Not Townsend or Knight. I believe all the others were.

What Wages did they receive?
Knight and Townsend received 9*s.* a Week; I think they worked for Squire Bevan, who gave them 1*s.* a Week more for planting Trees and moving Earth, and so on; the others got 8*s.* a Week.

Mr. A. Kingston.

Watts has worked for you Seven Years?
Yes; thereabouts.

Is he occasionally at Piece Work?
Yes, in Summer, sometimes, mowing; he mows and reaps for me.

Is he not an able-bodied Man then?
He cannot do so much as some Men; he is a very quiet Man at Work.

Did he mow and reap for you last Harvest?
Yes.

What did he earn?
I cannot say. When the Harvest is ended he pays his Rent, and pays for his Wood; he has not much more to live on than at another Time after the Time he pays for his Wood and his Rent.

Do you think it would not average more than 8*s.* a Week?
Yes; perhaps 10*s.*

Did his Wife work in Harvest Work?
Yes.

Was her Money included in the 10*s.* a Week?
I cannot say; perhaps it might be a little more than 10*s.*; they worked by the Acre.

One of the Children worked for you last Summer, did not she?
Yes, one of them; but she was a little weakly Thing. I employed her that she might not be idle. She was the oldest.

Has not a Boy been at work for you?
No. There are Two Girls older than any Boy.

Has the elder Boy never been employed by you?
No, nor by any one that I know of.

This Man has a Pig, has not he?
I do not know that he ever fattened a Pig. He had a small Pig and some Potatoes when he went into the Poorhouse, and the Shopkeeper took his Pig because he had had some Goods some Time, and had not paid for them; but it was not worth above 10*s.* or thereabouts.

Did you find any thing else in his House?
No more than Potatoes, I think.

He and his Family have lived upon his Wages since he came out of the Workhouse?
I do not know that they have had any other Means.

How do the Children look now?
They are very badly clothed, but they look more healthy.

He has improved in his Looks?
He looks better.

You suggested his making the Application to go into the Workhouse?
Yes.

Did you suggest to him any particular Period he had better go there for?
Yes; I told him he had better go till Summer.

What was your Reason for telling him so?
Because I thought he and his Family might earn something in the Summer; but I said there was no Chance of either the Wife or Children being employed at that Time.

You were aware that the Board would not take him in without his Family?
Yes; I understood so.

Had he an Offer of Work when he came out; did he know you would employ him?
No; he did not know whether I should employ him; but I took him in.

I was

Mr. A. Kingston.

I was angry with him for coming out; but I gave him something to find him Food, or he would have starved.

Did you employ any body in his Room?
No; I had plenty of Hands. I kept the House for him.

If that House had not been in your Possession, would not there have been a Probability of his finding it occupied by somebody else?
That would have been a Consideration; it probably might.

Are you the largest Rate-payer in the Parish?
I am.

Therefore, when you recommended the Man to go into the Workhouse, you knew that you should have to pay the largest Proportion of his Maintenance?
Yes.

Your firm Conviction in recommending it was, that he and his Family would be in great Distress if they did not go in?
Yes.

During the late Winter, did the Labouring Classes working by the Grate suffer much by being thrown out of Employ?
No. There were very few working by the Grate, but there were not many of them out of Employ; they were fully employed; but they might get something.

How many People do you employ that you have not Occasion for?
I think I had Six all the Winter that I had not Occasion for.

Those Men you employ at a low Rate of Wages, with Permission to leave whenever they can do better for themselves?
Yes; I tell them all so.

Do you know what Employment they have for the Men in the Workhouse?
They have a Flour Mill to be worked. He said it was Work he had not been used to, and he had not his Health.

Had the Children better Health in the Workhouse than they would have had under the old System?
Those Children looked better when they came out than when they went in. They had the same Clothing. They did not allow them to be dressed in the Union Clothing when they came out.

And they were well educated there?
I believe so, but I do not know the Fact.

Suppose this Man's Children were taken into the Workhouse, and all were well clothed and well educated, how could you refuse to take the Children of every Labourer who is in the same Circumstances?
Those who had a large Number to support. I did not propose to take any other Children.

Would not that be very hard upon those who might have a somewhat smaller Family, but might equally wish their Children to be well educated?
I do not see that, unless the Number is larger; then they might send Two or Three away.

Do you reckon that Watts is a Person that cannot support his Family?
I think that Watts cannot support the whole Number.

In point of fact has he not supported his Family since he came out of the Workhouse?
I suppose he has; from his Earnings and from Charity.

Are you aware that he has since received much in Charity?
He has received something.

You have no Doubt he has suffered considerable Distress from not being able to get Employment for his Family?
Yes.

Mr. A. Kingston.

Do you think the Farmers ought to raise the Wages?
No; they cannot afford it.

Do you think that the Farmers can afford to give Wages for a Man's Family independently of the Work they may do?
It would not do to put Two Men to work together and give them different Wages.

You say you have some at *5s.*?
That is the Boys.

How many able-bodied Labourers have you upon your Farm?
I suppose about Seventeen.

Is that during the Summer, or throughout the whole Year?
I always employ the same Labourers through the Year. I have Labourers who have been with me for Thirty Years. I seldom discharge them.

If you were relieved by those Men emigrating, or going elsewhere, your Farm would be relieved; would not that enable you to give higher Wages to those that remained?
Yes. I have at one Time had my Work done by the Piece. I did it in War Time, and should be glad to do it again; it costs me a great deal more now than if I had it done by the Piece.

If the old System, to which you have alluded, were to be persevered in, and after taking superfluous Labourers they continued to have their low Wages made up out of the Rates, would not there be less Probability of their going into other Parishes, or going where their Labour was required?
The System was a bad one; for they were set upon the Rates, and it was made up in that Way.

Supposing a Repetition of the Relief, would it not diminish the Probability of their going elsewhere to get Work where it would be remunerating?
One would suppose that the Want of proper Wages would induce them to go from Home to get higher Wages as much now as ever.

Do you find, in fact, as one of the Effects of the Workhouse System, that the able-bodied Labourers have gone to the Railroads, or any other Place where their Work would be wanted?
No; I do not think that there are any of them who have gone.

Do not you think that if a good many Labourers in the Circumstances of Isaac Watts, with large Families, and Wages insufficient to support them, got into the Workhouse with their large Families, that would introduce among the Farmers a great Desire to render those Wages sufficient to maintain their Families, for the Purpose of diminishing the Pressure of the Rates?
If a great many of them went to the Parish the Rate of Wages would be likely to rise, for we should be able to employ them by the Piece; and it would cost us no more, and yet they would earn more Wages.

Many Persons getting into the Workhouse having large Families would so much increase the Rates that the Farmers probably would be inclined to give them Wages sufficient to keep them in the House, rather than maintain them on low Wages?
Yes. We do not wish to keep them in the Workhouse.

Supposing every Occupier, like yourself, had recommended them to go in; would not that produce a great Increase in the Rates?
The Recommendation would have no Effect upon them, unless they were driven to it by Distress.

Would not an Increase of Rates be necessary to maintain a great Number of them in the House?
Yes.

That would not be very pleasing to the Farmers in the Parish?
No.

They would then set to work to devise some Means to avoid that?
Yes.

They would have induced them to come out by the Offer of higher Wages, probably?
They would have induced them to come out as soon as they could employ them.

If they went in in consequence of not being sufficiently paid, how could they induce them to come out again without an Offer of higher Wages?
They would not offer them higher Wages, unless they were in want of Labourers for their Farm.

Would they not have found it more for their Interest to have offered higher Wages to those Men, rather than to have allowed them to remain in the Workhouse with their Families?
It is hard to say whether it would be general or not in a Parish where there are Twenty or Thirty Rate-payers.

Suppose there were One or Two of those large Families in the Workhouse, would not the Farmers say, "These Men swell the Rates by being there, and we will offer them Wages to come out"?
If they had any thing for them to do, they would.

Would they not have calculated that it would be more advantageous for them to offer them Wages sufficient to bring them out?
Perhaps they would, if they could find them any thing to do.

Is your Farm in the highest possible State of Cultivation?
It is tolerably high.

Do you think, by employing more Labourers, you could improve it?
No; I do not think I could.

Is that the Case generally in the Parish?
Perhaps some are in a lower Condition than mine. I could not improve mine, unless I had more Stock and less Corn; then I should not want so many Labourers.

What is the Size of your Farm?
About 900 Acres.

Is it your own?
I have more than 1,000 Acres in the whole; I rent in another Parish.

Do you employ those Men indiscriminately on the one Farm and on the other?
Yes; I call it all one Farm.

Is it your own?
About 500 Acres of it are my own.

You have about Three Men for every 100 Acres?
About that.

Are you not aware that Four and Five Men are very common for every 100 Acres?
Not in our Country; not above Two or Three.

What is the Nature of your Soil?
It is a wet Soil.

Have you much in Pasture?
Not much.

You grow some Barley?
Yes; we grow all Sorts of Grain.

What Quantity of Sheep have you?
I had 800 Ewes this Winter.

Can you, to do Justice to your Farm, have a less Quantity of Labour upon it?
Yes. I think if I were to turn it more to Pasture I could make more Money with less Wages.

Mr. A. Kingston.

What is the Price of Flour per Stone; the Sort of Flour the Bread for the Labourers is composed of?
I believe the Gallon Loaf is 1*s.* 3*d.*, which is 10*s.* a Bushel.

How much per Stone?
We do not calculate by the Stone.

Are you in the Practice of hoeing your Wheat in the Spring?
No; we weed it.

You never heard of that Practice?
It is done in some Parts of Wiltshire.

Do you think you could get that done for less than 7*s.* an Acre?
I do not know; it costs us 5*s.* an Acre to weed it sometimes.

Do you think that would make a Difference of a Bushel an Acre?
I cannot say.

Do you drill your Wheat?
No.

Then you could not hoe it?
No, I never hoed Wheat. There is some drilled in the Parish; that is not hoed, though it is drilled.

Do you think it quite fair to an unmarried Labourer, who performs the same Work as the married Labourer, not to give him the same Wages?
I never put them together. I do not think it fair to have one Man at 5*s.* with another who has 8*s.* I give them some odd Work in the Garden, and so on.

Which do you employ in the Garden, and which in the other Work?
The young Men in the Garden, sometimes to assist the Men, and in any other Sort of Work about the Farm. I never put a Man at 5*s.* with a Man at 8*s.*

Do you think that the Men who have only 5*s.* a Week are not aware that they are not paid in the same Manner as the married Men?
Certainly; and I tell them so, and tell them to go and get more; that they ought to go to the Railway; that I employ them merely to get Bread.

Do you expect as much Work from them as from the other Men?
No; I do not expect so much Work for 5*s.* as from the 8*s.* Men.

Do you think it advantageous for the young Population of this Country that they should be encouraged to do Half-days Work?
No; I wish them to go and do better.

What is the Reason they do not go?
I suppose it is their Attachment to their Parents.

Young Men of what Age do you mean?
From Fourteen to Twenty.

Have you any such thing as an unmarried Labourer beyond the Age of Twenty?
No; I do not think there are any now. There used to be, before this Poor Law passed, some employed as high as Thirty; but now we endeavour to keep all the married Men in Employ, and the young ones are endeavoured to be sent away.

Is not it a Benefit to the young Men to marry as quickly as they can?
I do not know. We have not got so much Marriage as we had.

If you employ the married Men, and give them better Wages, is not that a Premium on Marriage?
Then, perhaps, they would think they might not be employed, and be sent to the House. The Idea of being sent to the House deters them a good deal from marrying.

Mr. A. Kingston.

But if you give the married Men more Wages, does not that induce them to marry ?
It is merely keeping them in Existence ; it is not keeping them in Affluence.

Suppose a Man is Twenty-five, unmarried, would you conclude to give him only 5*s.* a Week ?
I should not employ him if he could get more. I should be glad that he could do so.

Do you suppose he could get more ?
Yes, if he went to the Railroad.

Do you think he could get more in Farming Work ?
No ; not in our Neighbourhood, Six or Seven Miles round.

Do you know the Rate of Wages Twenty Miles off ?
No. In Three or Four Parishes round my Parish it is 8*s.*

Do you know any Parish that gives more ?
No, I do not know any Parish that gives more within my Knowledge ; they may perhaps at a greater Distance.

Do you in Harvest Time employ any from distant Parts ?
No, never ; I employ all People of the Parish.

Is it the Practice of your Parish ?
I do not know anybody who does.

The Winter before the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Bill how many able-bodied Men were out of Work in your Parish ?
In the last Winter there were not many out of Employ ; not many of the married.

When was the last Winter you remember many out of Employ ?
About Ten or Twelve Years ago.

Do you remember the Winter before the passing of this Bill ?
I do not believe there were above Three or Four.

Is your Parish near Lambourne ?
No ; it is Twelve Miles from Lambourne and Four Miles from Hungerford.

How many were out of Employment in Hungerford ?
I do not know ; I have heard of a good many being out of Employment. I think they have got some now.

You are a very large Rate-payer in the Parish ?
Yes.

What Proportion of the Poor Rate do you pay ?
I suppose about One Fifth in Shalbourne.

Do you know what is reckoned as the Cost of a Person in the Workhouse ?
I do not.

Supposing it is 3*s.*, Watts and his Wife and Seven Children would come to 27*s.* a Week ?
Yes.

One Fifth of that would be upwards of 5*s.*, which would come to your Share ; would it not have been better worth your while to have given Watts Half a Crown more in the Shape of Wages than to have sent him into the Parish Workhouse, where you would have had to pay this Proportion ?
If I had broken through with him I must have done the same for others.

Your Fear was that the whole Rate of Wages with respect to all the others would have been raised ?
I suppose that most of the People I employ having Families, if I gave those who have One Child 8*s.*, and 9*s.*, 10*s.*, or 12*s.* to others, that would have caused great Discontent and Uneasiness.

You say, if you had broken through with one, you must have done it generally ; what Wages do you speak of ?
The Rate of Wages generally given ; 8*s.*

Mr. A. Kingston.

You had arranged among yourselves that Rate of Wages?
Yes; there is generally one Rate of Wages in the Parish.

Is there not a settled Understanding between Farmers fixing the Rate?
It is generally by an Understanding, as soon as Harvest is over, they should be 8*s.* a Week for the Hire of Labourers till the next Harvest Time.

Do you not come to that Understanding with the People by Reference to the Necessity for Employment in the Parish?
We do not consider the Necessity of Employment. We make it a Rule to employ all the able-bodied Men that are married Men at 8*s.* a Week, and the young ones we had rather not have, because we have plenty without them; therefore, if we do employ them, we give them lower Wages to make them go away.

You say that the Number of Marriages has decreased?
Yes; there have not been so many improvident Marriages since the new Poor Law.

You think that has tended to check it?
Yes.

In what Manner has it tended to check it?
They used to marry before and applied to the Overseer for Employment; they would not make any Provision for themselves, saying that the Laws of the Land would provide for them. Now they say, if they were to marry and applied to the Overseer directly, they would have an Order for the House. The Union Workhouse is one of the best Things that can be to prevent that.

Were you one of those who recommended the Receipt of the supernumerary Children, to relieve their Parents?
I did so.

If the young Men were to marry with a Certainty of that Prospect, would it not tend to restore the Improvidence of Marriages?
If they took them only above Four, I do not think they would look forward to be relieved very soon. I think they would be able to support Four, and they cannot support more.

You say the new Law has checked improvident Marriages?
It has.

Would not this, in some degree, restore that Imprudence?
No, I do not think it would, for they would know they must support Three or Four Children before any could be taken away from them.

You mean to say, that if it were the Law that a Man and Wife and Four Children should on no Account receive Relief, that would be sufficient to deter them from improvident Marriages?
Yes.

But that if any more came it would be right to give them Relief and Supply?
Yes, instead of sending the whole Family into the Poorhouse.

And you think that would not be encouraging improvident Marriages, to a certain Extent?
I think not.

You employed the eldest Girl last Year, did you not?
We did, a little.

What did she earn a Week?
I do not know what she can earn; I gave her 4*d.* a Day.

The eldest Boy is Nine Years old, is not he?
I cannot exactly say what his Age is; he is a little Thing.

What do you pay in the Country to a Boy of that Age?
When we take them first we give them 4*d.* a Day; 2*s.* a Week.

Mr. A. Kingston.

How came he not to be employed in that Way?
He is not old enough; we very seldom take them less than Eleven Years old, unless they are stout.

In point of fact you could have done without the Work of this Man at all; and had it not been for the Consideration of his Family, you would have discharged him during the Winter?
I should; and have been glad to have done so.

If he had remained in the Workhouse during the Winter you would have employed him in the Summer?
Yes, I should, if he could not get Employment elsewhere.

Therefore his going to the Workhouse was a Sort of Relief to you?
I should not have made that a Consideration.

It was a Relief to you in the Quantity of Wages you had to pay upon your Farm?
It might have been considered so, but that was not my Reason.

Is your Harvest Work invariably done by Task Work?
Yes.

What do you give them an Acre?
According to the Crop; 8*s.* an Acre; that includes the binding.

What Effect do you think this Bill has had with respect to Bastardy Cases; are there as many Bastardy Cases as there were?
No, I do not think there are; we have had One or Two Instances since, but not so many.

They do not get married when they have Bastards, as they used to do?
No.

Do you attribute the Decrease to that?
I cannot assign any Cause; I think the Dread of having Orders for the House prevents their marrying and prevents the illegitimate Children in some Measure.

What is the present Condition of Watts's Family, as to the Clothing of the Children?
Very bad; they are very thinly clad.

Did they look worse off in that respect than they were before the passing of the new Poor Law Act?
Yes. There were not so many at that Time; and then he had some Relief in Loaves in addition to his Wages.

In point of fact, after providing himself with the few Necessaries of Life, at the present Rate of Wages has he any thing left for any Comforts such as the Poor enjoy?
No; I do not think he has.

Has he any thing left wherewith to pay his Rent?
He does not pay his Rent till he works at Harvest, cutting Corn.

He can gain nothing for the Clothing of his Children?
No.

Do they never give any thing at the Workhouse for Clothing to a large Family?
No.

Has he no Allotment of Land besides the Twenty Poles?
No, except a little Allotment at his House, about Four Poles.

Have the Labourers in that Parish in general any independent Allotments; Half an Acre, or a Quarter of an Acre?
The Land I rent of the Marquis of Aylesbury; and I then let it out to the Poor. The Steward allotted some, but not sufficient; and then he let me this Land to allot it to them.

Mr. A. Kingston.

Are there many Applications from the Poor for this Land?
When I allotted it I let a Piece to every Man who applied, and every one had a Bit.

Had you a great many Applications?
Yes.

Is not that a considerable Assistance to the Labourers beyond their Wages?
Yes; and it employs them a little during their Leisure Hours in the Spring of the Year.

What is the Extent of an individual Allotment; is it portioned out in equal Divisions?
No; according to the Families; some Forty Poles, and some less.

Are there some as large as Half an Acre?
No; the largest Families have not more than Forty Poles.

Do you consider that the largest Allotment is as much as 1*s.* a Week added to their Wages?
It depends upon how they plant it; some People make more of it than others.

Where it is made the most of?
I do not know whether it is 1*s.* a Week; but it is a considerable Advantage to them.

It is cultivated by the Children to a considerable Extent, is it not?
It is weeded by the Children; but the Cultivation is by the Men. It requires a strong Man to dig it, and plant it, and dig up the Grass; it is too hard Work for Children.

You say that Isaac Watts pays 2*l.* a Year Rent for his Cottage; is that the usual Rate for Rent?
Yes; some of the very small ones do not pay more than 30*s.*; I think 50*s.* is about the general Rent for such Houses.

Do the Farmers in general give Beer and Cyder to their Workmen in addition to their Wages?
They give Beer in Summer; not in Winter. When they are Haymaking, and such like, I give a great deal of Beer then; not at other Times.

Do you consider the Money the Labourers earn during Harvest is more than sufficient to pay for their Rent and Fuel?
Yes, certainly. Some of the Men earn more than others.

Generally speaking, their 8*s.* a Week is not sufficient to supply them with their Food and Clothing?
No.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Mr. W. Rowland.

Mr. WILLIAM ROWLAND is called in, and examined as follows:

YOU are Clerk to the Hungerford Union, are you not?
I am.

Have you been so from the Commencement?
I have.

Do you know a Labourer of the Name of Isaac Watts, belonging to Shalbourne, who applied for Relief to your Board?
Yes.

Were you present when he applied for Relief?
I was.

What were the Grounds on which he applied to you?
The Application was for Want of Work. I have a Minute from the Workhouse Book when he went in, which I can read. It was, in effect, that he was unable to support his Family.

Is

Mr. W. Rowland.

Is that the Minute made when he came into the Workhouse?
Yes; it is extracted from the Workhouse Admission Book.

Have you a Copy of the Order; or was there any written Order given for his Admission.
The Order does not specify for what Reason the Admission takes place; only admit so and so Pauper, of such a Parish.

Did he state his Case to the Board, or the relieving Officer?
The Case is taken down by the relieving Officer; then the Man is called into the Room.

Do you remember his being called into the Room?
Yes; I believe I was present.

Do you remember what he then stated?
I do not, particularly. I was not aware of the Points to which I should be examined, and I did not bring any thing with me, except the Extract from the Workhouse Book on his Admission, taken from the Book at the Workhouse.

Did he enter into all the Particulars of his Case?
I have no Doubt the Board did; I cannot speak to it particularly.

Would it appear in the Book what he said?
No.

Would it appear in the relieving Officer's Book?
The relieving Officer's Book would state for what Cause he applied.

How are the Board informed?
There is an Abstract of that Book put into the Hands of the Chairman at the Commencement of the weekly Meeting; he is then in possession of the Nature of the Application. The Man is then called into the Room to state his own Case, and he may give any Explanation.

You were directed by the Poor Law Commissioners to make Inquiry into these Circumstances?
Yes.

You stated that Watts before had applied for Relief, and you stated the Particulars of his Case?
Yes.

Was that Information obtained by you by Inquiry afterwards, or at the Time he came in?
Afterwards; by the Inquiry of the Man.

How long after he received the Order did he come into the Workhouse?
I believe Two Days; he applied on the 24th January, and was admitted, I believe, on the 26th.

What was the Appearance of the Man at the Time?
That I cannot state; I only attend the weekly Meeting of the Board.

Can you speak to his Appearance at the Time of his appearing before the Board?
There are so many Individuals appearing, I cannot distinguish him from others in my Recollection.

Did you see him after he came out from the Workhouse?
Yes; I saw him on the 30th of March; not until Directions were sent to make Inquiries as to the Case.

Do you know that he has ever complained that the Confinement of the Workhouse did not agree with him?
He made some Observations of that Kind when I questioned him as to the Nature of his Case and his Family. Mr. Hall, the Assistant Commissioner, was also present, and some of the Farmers, when I went to the Village to make Inquiries.

Did he look in bad Health?
He looked in bad Condition; he appeared in extreme Poverty, as far as Appearances went.

Mr. W. Rowland.

Do you mean as to his Health?
I cannot speak to that.

His Earnings were 8*s.* a Week?
Yes.

At that Time of the Year could any Part of his Family earn any thing besides that 8*s.* a Week?
I believe not.

In the Summer Time they could?
Yes. It is customary with the Farmers occasionally to give the Women a Day's Work winnowing, and mending Sacks, and so on; but that occurs but very seldom.

He was employed by Mr. Kingston?
Yes; he so stated.

Suppose Mr. Kingston had chosen to employ single Men upon that same Work, could he have got them cheaper than 8*s.* a Week?
That I do not know of my own Knowledge.

Where do you live?
I live at Ramsbury.

Is that a large Village?
It is.

What is the usual Rate of Wages there?
8*s.*

Do you make any Distinction between married and single Men?
No; if they are equally able, I am not aware of a Distinction.

Are you aware that in the Parish of Shalbourne they are in the habit of doing that?
I think I heard it stated that the younger Men are paid a less Rate of Wages.

Is that the Custom in other Parts of that Country?
A single Man, I believe, receives less Wages, though he is not less able, than the married Men.

They are yearly Servants, are they not?
Yes.

Then they have something more at Michaelmas, have they not?
Yes.

Do the Farmers pay more Wages to married than to single Labourers?
No; I do not know of any Distinction between Men who are capable of doing the same Work.

You are aware, perhaps, that it exists in Shalbourne?
I heard something of the Kind stated when I was there.

8*s.* a Week is quite as much Wages as a Man could by Possibility earn in that Country by Labour?
Yes, unless he was at Task Work.

If a Man was sent to a Farmer, unless he particularly wanted his Labour, it is not likely he would put him to Task Work?
I should think not.

Was the Man's Representation, that he could not earn more than 8*s.* a Week, a true Representation, in your Opinion?
Yes; I think so.

Could not any thing be made in addition to that 8*s.* by any Work that might probably be obtained by any Part of his Family at that Time?
No; not in the Winter Season, I should think.

Mr. W. Rowland.

How do you think that 8*s*. a Week could provide for the Family of this Man, and his Wife and Seven Children, to afford them sufficient Food?
I am not at all aware how they could afford to live upon their Means. I do not know, in Detail, how they do those Things.

In point of fact, do they do so?
Yes, unless they get any private Charity to assist them.

Do you believe that many do maintain their Families?
Yes.

And respectably?
Yes; when they have no Opportunity to lay by a Store, I believe they live upon those Earnings.

Referring to that sized Family,—a Man, and his Wife, and Seven Children,—do you conceive it to be possible for that Family to subsist upon those Wages; finding themselves in Clothes and Food, and paying a Rent for their Cottage?
Yes, I do; because I know it is to be done.

You are aware that is very much lower than is usual in some other Parts of England?
I know it is the general Wages in the Part of the West of England I am acquainted with.

Do not Labourers with those Wages get into Debt?
Some of them do; but I do not believe a prudent Man does. Some do, I know.

You used to have many improvident Marriages under the old Poor Law?
Many.

Do you think that has been much lessened?
I think very much lessened.

Suppose there were a Regulation, that no Man having less than a certain Number of Children should have Relief, do you think that that would materially impair the Check; that a Man should not have Relief for any unless he had more than Four Children, for instance?
No; I do not imagine it would have that Effect.

Did you inquire into the Circumstances of this Man?
I did.

What did you hear?
I heard a very good Character of him as a Labourer; that he was an industrious Man, and correct in his Conduct.

And desirous to do what he could to maintain his Family?
Yes.

Did you hear any Character of the Wife?
I heard she was a very bad Manager; that she did not make the best of her Means; but nothing to impeach her Character.

Where the Children in a bad State as to Clothes, and so forth?
Yes, they were.

Did he tell you that it was his own Notion that he should come to apply to the Board for Relief?
No; he said his Master desired him to do it, I think.

Can you state the precise Terms he used upon that Subject?
I believe he stated, that his Master had desired him, in the first place, to go to the relieving Officer, to see whether he could not get some Relief on Account of his Family; that the relieving Officer took down his Case, and his Master then advised him to go into the House till the Month of May, and then to come out again, and he would employ him.

This Man rents a Cottage and some Garden Ground?
He does.

Mr. W. Rowland.

Are you aware of the Rent he pays?
The Rent is after the Rate of 2*l.* a Year. They have all Cottage Gardens, I believe, in that Parish. I am not certain whether it was 2*l.* or not; the Land, I understand, is let at the Rate of 2*l.* per Acre, a Year.

He had the Eighth of an Acre, had not he?
I am not certain of the Quantity.

What is the usual Price of Cottages in that Country?
The Price of Cottages in that Parish varies from 8*s.* up to 52*s.* per Year.

How are they in your Parish?
Much higher; up to 4*l.*

Are they provided with Gardens in your Village, too?
They have some Field Gardens, not attached to their Cottages.

Do they pay high for their Land there?
They pay double there; they pay at the Rate of 4*l.* an Acre.

Have the Labourers there better Means than in Shalbourne Parish?
No. In other Parishes they pay also 4*l.* an Acre; it varies according to the Landlords.

Are there fewer Labourers out of Employ in Shalbourne since the passing of the new Poor Law than there were before?
I believe very many; I have heard that stated at the Board.

There were more Applications from Shalbourne than there are now?
There were, at the Commencement of the new Poor Law; and in other Parishes also.

Do you ever apprentice Children from the Union Workhouse?
Never.

Do you never give them Clothes when they go out?
The Orphan Children, if they are totally destitute of Friends; we give them sufficient Clothing for their Situation.

Is that only when you send out the Children alone, or when you send them out with their Parents?
It is only when they are going into Servitude.

You do not apprentice them?
No; we never apprenticed one.

It is very difficult to procure Persons willing to take Apprentices, except on the Payment of large Premiums, is it not?
We have never had any Application, or not more than One, since the Union.

Was not that the Practice before the Union?
It was in a trifling Degree, but not in a great Degree, before the passing of the Bill.

Had you ever a Case where you apprenticed a Boy, and gave the Employer of that Boy so much a Week to maintain him during the Continuance of his Apprenticeship?
I never heard of that.

Part of the Land in Shalbourne Parish is very good, is it not?
Yes.

Do you know where the Allotments are situated?
In the best Land in the Village, and it is good Soil; there are no Flints amongst it; it is very good Garden Ground. A great Part of the Property belongs to Lord Aylesbury, and from that Circumstance he lets the poor People have the Land at less Price than a little Landholder would do.

It is better Garden Ground than that in Ramsbury?
Yes.

A great

Mr. W. Rowland.

A great Part of Mr. Kingston's Land, the Committee understand, belongs to himself?
Yes; I believe that is the Fact.

You do not know that Watts complained of ill Health during the Time he was in the Workhouse?
No.

Do you know what the Extent of the Field Gardens in general is?
I believe they are divided according to the Size of the Family of the Cottage; from Ten Lugs up to Half an Acre.

They are of very considerable Assistance to the Labourer, in addition to his Wages?
Considerably. They provide, after paying for the Rent, as I have heard it stated, Potatoes more than sufficient to provide for the Family during the Winter.

Do they apply for those Allotments, at the Rate of 4*l.* a Year, at a Distance from their Cottages?
Yes.

Are those sought for as much at a Distance from the Cottages as those near the Cottages?
Not quite so much; but still they are eagerly taken at that Price.

How do they procure Manure for them?
The most of them keep a Pig; and they get a good deal about the Streets, during the Winter Season, and they store it up for the Spring.

That is done by the Children?
Yes; all the Scrapings.

Is not the Cultivation of the Land carried on by the Women and Children, in many Instances?
The Women sometimes do the digging, and so on.

Do not the Children do any thing?
Yes; and the Man goes and hoes, &c., after his Work, in the Evening.

Is it the Practice, on the Lots in your Union, that a great many of the Children are employed in getting Scrapings and selling them afterwards to the Farmers?
I never heard of that Practice.

Are any of the Children in the Workhouse of the Hungerford Union above the Age of Nine Years?
I believe not. I know they are taken out as soon as they are fit for any thing. Persons prefer taking them from the Workhouse to taking Children of the same Age and Size from their Parents.

Were there many Workhouses in that Part of the Country, before the Union, into which the Children were received?
Many.

Are not they better conducted now?
Yes.

Is the Education of the Children well looked after?
Yes.

Were the Children as well taken care of during the old System?
Not to be compared to the present.

Have you seen an Alteration in the Conduct of the Labourers in your Neighbourhood since the new Poor Law?
Yes; a very great Alteration.

What is the Difference?
They are more obliging, and desirous to perform their Work for their Employers.

Mr. W. Rowland.

Are you aware that there have been more Deposits with the Savings Banks since the new Poor Law?

I believe there have. I happened to be in the Bank at Hungerford last Wednesday Week, and to meet with the Trustee who had received the Deposits from the People; and in the Course of Conversation I said, "How do you employ the Money; you have always plenty, I suppose? Do you find any Difference since the new Poor Law has been at work?" He said, "I do, a very great deal; for it makes the Poor think for themselves, and more provident than they were. We receive much more in Deposits."

Do you believe the same Result has been found in the Increase of Benefit Societies and other Institutions of that Kind?

Yes; I believe that is the Case.

Do you believe the poor People have been more provident than they were under the old Poor Law?

Yes.

Was not the old Law a Premium for Improvidence?

Certainly.

Do you believe the Man Watts, who has been referred to, could save any thing to deposit in the Savings Bank?

No; I should think not.

Is Shalbourne in the Hungerford Union?

Yes.

Where there many People out of Work during the last Winter at Ramsbury?

Not to any great Extent. There are always some young Men about, and some married Men, of bad Habits; Poachers, and so on.

Are there as many out of Work as had been before the new Poor Law?

In my Opinion, not to be compared.

Lambourne is a Place where there were many out of Employment formerly?

A great many.

There was a Workhouse there formerly?

Yes; under Gilbert's Act.

Do you know the Number out of Employment the Winter before the new Poor Law Act?

There were considerably above 100. I have been in the habit of visiting Lambourne very much, professionally.

Can you state the Number out of Employment last Winter?

Comparatively very few.

At Hungerford?

There were very few in that Parish. There were, formerly, as many as in Lambourne, I believe.

There is nothing of the same Kind now?

No.

Has there not been a great Diminution of Law Expenses since the passing of the Poor Law Bill?

Certainly.

To a great Amount?

Yes. The Law Expenses have been almost wholly superseded; I have known but One Appeal, in my own Practice, since, and that is now pending.

Is there any different Description of Work to be had in that Neighbourhood from that formerly to be had?

No.

There is nothing in the Shape of Railway?

Some of the Men have gone off to the Western Railway, near Reading; but nothing near our Neighbourhood.

Mr. W. Rowland.

Do you often find a Man of good Character in Distress, or are the Cases very rare?
Very rare.

The Men who have gone to the Railway are Men of bad Character?
Yes; I have heard of Three or Four from Ramsbury.

From the whole of your Union how many have gone?
I cannot state the Number.

What has become of the Wives and Children of the married Men who have gone?
They remain at home. They send them some of their Earnings.

There would have been some Hundreds out of Work for Eight or Ten Weeks in the Winter before the Operation of the present Law?
They would have partial Work, not have been wholly out of Employ; many of them can get occasional Work; Jobs of different Kinds.

How can you account for the Absorption of them now, as Agricultural Produce was not much higher last Winter than it was in the Year 1830 or 1831, and still there was not so many out of Work?
No, I believe not. I cannot account why.

The Cultivation of the Land has been carried on in a superior Style, perhaps?
I am not acquainted with that Subject, except in a very small Degree.

You state that the Deposits in the Savings Bank are very much increased; are you able to state whether the Increase is from Agricultural Labourers or Domestic Servants?
Our District is an Agricultural District solely. My Understanding from the Observation of the Manager at the Bank was, certainly, that it came from the Agricultural Labourers; I do not know from my own Knowledge.

How many Children have you in the Union Workhouse?
I cannot state the Number; perhaps Forty or Fifty altogether.

You have at present about 100 in the House altogether?
Something above 100.

Did you take the Trouble to ask whether those Savings came from the single Labourers or the married?
I did not make that Inquiry.

You spoke of Allotments varying from a Quarter of an Acre to Half an Acre; do you know of any so large as Half an Acre?
No; but I heard that mentioned.

What should you say was the average Age of the Children in the Workhouse?
I really do not know. I generally find them retained only up to the Time they are old enough to go to work.

Are there more or less under Five Years of Age?
That I have not the least Knowledge of.

You were with Mr. Hall when he went to Shalbourne the other Day?
I was.

Were there any Children at Watts's Cottage besides his own?
I believe not.

What Sort of State was his Cottage in?
It was clean and neat, as far as that went. It was very bare of Furniture.

Did you see any thing of the Food?
No, I did not. He stated that he had a Supply of Potatoes.

Had he any Bed?
I did not go up Stairs. He had a good Number of Faggots at the Back of his Premises.

Mr. W. Rowland.

You do not know whether there was a Pig in the Sty?
I believe not; I did not see one.

Did you ask him whether he had had a Pig in the Course of the Winter?
I believe not. I should judge not, from what I heard of the Case.

Had they usually Pigs?
In that Village they had generally Pigs, and some of them have Two. Their Plan is to fatten the Two, and then sell One, and keep the other for their own Consumption.

Do the Labourers eat Meat in that District?
Bacon, generally.

Do they get any thing but Bacon?
That is the principal Food, I apprehend. They get Butcher's Meat sometimes.

And Potatoes?
Yes, and other Vegetables, from their Gardens.

And Cheese?
Yes; they have Cheese, I believe. Their Practice is to carry out Bread and Cheese, and to have a warm Supper, Bacon and Cabbage, or something of that Kind, when they come home from the Field.

Can you state whether the Bacon stands them at less Price than Butcher's Meat?
I should think Bacon would go much further than Butcher's Meat at any Time; that they could make more Profit by Bacon at any Time than Butcher's Meat.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned to Thursday next, at Twelve o'Clock.

Die Jovis, 10° *Maii* 1838.

Lord WHARNCLIFFE in the Chair.

Evidence on the Operation of the Poor Law Amendment Act.

Mr. JOHN KEARSEY is called in, and examined as follows:

Mr. John Kearsey.

WHAT are you?
A Farmer and Miller.

You were last Year Overseer of the Parish of Shalbourne?
I was.

You signed a Letter, which purports to be from the Minister, Churchwarden, Overseers, and Rate-payers of Shalbourne, to the Poor Law Commissioners of England and Wales?
I did.

That Letter applied to the Case of a Man of the Name of Isaac Watts?
It did.

Isaac Watts is a Farming Labourer in your Parish, is he not?
Yes.

What Family has he?
Seven Children.

One of those Children is at the Breast?
I believe so.

What Sort of a conducted Man is he?
I never heard any thing amiss of him. He never laboured for me.

When you say you never heard any thing amiss of him, do you mean to say that he was really a Man of good Character, or that you have nothing to say against him?
I have always understood him to be a Man of very good Character.

An industrious Man?
Yes.

And willing to earn his Subsistence by his Labour?
Yes.

What Wages did he receive?
I understood 8*s.* a Week.

Is that the usual Rate of Wages for that Description of Men in your Country?
It is what is considered nominal Wages in our Neighbourhood.

What do you mean by nominal Wages?
It is generally understood in our Neighbourhood that there is a Sort of Scale of Wages; but I should say that that is no Rule at all as to Wages, because some are hired at less and some at more, according to Circumstances. Some Farmers allow them to work by the Piece; I do myself, when I can; but it is utterly impossible Farmers can at all Times find Piece Work for the Labourers; that depends upon the Description of Work to be done, and the Time of the Year.

Supposing a Man had been employed, as this Man was for Mr. Kingston, at threshing, and you paid him by the Day, what Wages would you give him?
He would have received 8*s.* a Week.

Mr. John Kearsey.

You say you fixed that upon a Scale; what is that Scale; is it in proportion to the Number of Children?

Not at all.

What is the Ground of your Scale?

It is merely an Understanding among the Farmers in the neighbouring Parishes. We inquire frequently of each other, when at Market, what is your best Price for Labour? what is your Price for Labour a Week? So much; and in general, in our Neighbourhood, it is 8*s.* a Week.

That is what you call the best Price?

8*s.* with us; in some Parishes below us it is less than that.

How much less?

1*s.* a Week less.

What is the lowest Price of Labour to able-bodied Labourers on that Scale?

I have not heard of less than 7*s.* a Week in any Parish.

Does that apply equally to married and single men?

Certainly not; because we go to Market and hire our Labourers on the best Terms we can.

Do you mean by the Week?

By the Year.

The Question does not refer to yearly Servants, but to daily Labourers. Supposing you wanted to employ a single Man as a Day Labourer, what should you pay him a Week?

That would entirely depend upon the Circumstances; as to the Man, as to his Capability, what we had for him to do, and the Time of the Year.

Supposing he was employed at threshing for you, and you preferred to pay him by the Day instead of the Quarter, or the Piece, what would you pay an able-bodied Man for working in that Way?

We do not pay less than 8*s.* a Week for the first-rate Labourer. If a Man comes to me for Work, and I know him to be in Distress for Want of Employment, and I know him not to be so competent to do so much Work nor doing it so well, and he only wished to be employed for a short Time, and that during the Winter when the Days were short, I should make him an Offer, and if he chose to accept it, well and good; he having Liberty to leave at any Time.

Supposing a single Man applied to you under those Circumstances, would you offer that single Man 8*s.* a Week?

Not if I could get him for less.

That is, you would not pay him that if you could get him for less; but would you offer him 8*s.* a Week?

I should not voluntarily, certainly.

What would you offer him?

The Rule is to make the best Bargain we can. We have an Idea that Labour is a marketable Article, therefore we get it on the best Terms we can.

Quite agreeing that Labour is a marketable Article, what would you offer for that single Man's Labour in the Market?

It is impossible for me to say what I would give, unless the Individual was before me, and I could judge of his Capability.

Take the Case of a single young Man, from Nineteen to Twenty-one, an able-bodied young Man; what would you offer him for his Work?

I cannot say what I should offer exactly.

Would you offer him less than you would to a married Man?

Certainly; if I could get him for less, I should pay him less.

What would you give him if he came to you and said, "I want Work"?

I should ask him what he was willing to take per Week or per Day; then he would name a Price; I then should name my Offer, in the same Sort of Way as I make an Offer to a Farmer for a Load of Wheat.

Mr. John Kearsey.

You would make a Bargain with him?
Yes.

Suppose he came to you under those Circumstances; what do they generally ask a Farmer?
Young Men, in the Winter Time of the Year, are willing to offer for any thing they can get, sooner than be out of Employ. That is the Effect of the Alteration of the Poor Law. Before the Alteration in the Poor Law, when they had an Opportunity of going on the Road, they were not very willing to work; now they are more willing to work, on the best Terms they can get. I speak of young Men.

On what Terms would such a Person offer his Labour, in your Opinion?
I really cannot answer that Question.

Supposing he asked you 8*s.*, would you give him 8*s.*?
Not if I could get him for less.

Should you expect you should get him for less?
Yes; in the Winter Time I could get him for 6*s.*

For 5*s.*?
Perhaps 5*s.*

Four Shillings?
That would depend upon the Man. Some are willing to work for less.

Supposing a Man capable, would you give him 6*s.*?
If he was a good Workman, and capable of doing as much as a married Man, I should not myself think of offering him but very little less than I should a married Man; that is, 8*s.* a Week. I am speaking of my own Feelings on the Subject.

Do other Farmers offer less?
I think they do; but I should not like to speak beyond my own Experience.

Why do you prefer employing a married Man to employing a single one?
I do not myself prefer it.

How many Labourers have you upon your Farm?
I cannot say exactly; I was taken by Surprise in being summoned here.

You have more Labourers during the Summer than during the Winter, independent of the Harvest Time?
Yes, we have.

How many do you employ upon your Farm in the Summer Time generally?
I think I employ about Ten Men on the Average of the Year, but I am not exactly prepared to answer precisely.

How many Acres of Land have you?
Less than 500 Acres.

Is the Labour of Ten Men required for that Number of Acres?
I do not think it is.

To what Amount do you employ Labour more than is absolutely required upon the Farm?
I have myself been induced to employ a larger Number of Labourers sooner than see them lying about the Roads.

Do you speak of the Time since the new Poor Law came into operation?
Yes. Before that I was in the habit of employing a great Number during the Winter, to prevent their going on the Roads, which was not desirable; I was always extremely adverse to their being on the Roads, and it was to prevent young Men lying idle upon the Roads during the Winter Time I employed them.

Since the new Poor Law Act passed have you still continued to employ more Men than you needed?
Yes. I have had a good deal of chalking done in the Winter, by Men who never came to offer me in the Summer.

Mr. John Kearsey.

Do you find out Things to give them for the Purpose of employing them?
Yes, I do.

This Work you have put them upon rather than let them lie idle, whether it turned to your Profit or not?
I have.

Have you any Doubt of it?
Certainly I am of opinion chalking will answer on some of our Land; I have been given to understand it answers the Purpose generally with us; but I have not had it done sufficiently long yet to know whether it will answer my Purpose generally or not.

It is Matter of Experiment then?
It is.

You say that before the passing of the Act the young Men used to go upon the Roads, did they do much Work upon them?
They did but little.

It was idle Work?
Very idle.

This Man Watts having Employment at 8*s.* a Week, what induced you to sign this Letter to the Poor Law Commissioners?
Considering that it was utterly impossible for him to support himself and Wife and Seven small Children on 8*s.* a Week.

Were there other Labourers in your Parish under the same Circumstances?
Yes; no Doubt there were.

Why did you single out this Case?
Because it appeared to me to be rather the hardest Case; it is the largest Number of small Children having that Income.

There was a larger Family lying upon that Man than upon any other Labourer in the Parish?
I believe so. I have Two Cases within my own Knowledge. This is a little out of my Neighbourhood; ours is a very awkward Parish; we are very wide apart; there are Two Tithings; the Hamlet where I live is about Two Miles and a Half from the principal Part of the Village where this Man Watts lives.

Upon the whole you thought his Case the hardest Case in that Parish?
Yes. I shall never forget as long as I live when the Woman applied for Relief on one particular Occasion.

What was your Impression upon that particular Occasion?
I thought it exceedingly hard that no Relief should be afforded to this Man. Being Overseer, I occasionally attended the Pay Board, but not so frequently since the Alteration of the Law.

When you speak of the Board you mean the relieving Officer?
Yes; and on almost every Occasion of my attending the relieving Officer the Wife of this Watts was an Applicant for Relief, and almost as frequently with Tears in her Eyes. I was moved with Compassion many Times towards this Family, and on more Occasions than one was induced to put my Hand into my Pocket and relieve them personally; knowing, from the Experience I have of the World, that even Eight, Ten, or Twelve Shillings a Week was not sufficient for the Support of such a Family, to enable the Man to do a proper Day's Work.

What Kind of Woman is his Wife?
I never heard any thing against her.

Have you heard that she was a good Manager?
I never heard that she was or was not. Upon one Occasion I said, "Cannot there be any Employment found for the Children of this Man?" understanding that the Two eldest were Girls. They are very small Children; the Man and Woman likewise are both very small in Stature, not so stout as People in general; I was given to understand that the Children also were very small.

You had not seen them?

No; I wished to see them, and requested that they should be brought; and I think that Day Fortnight I saw them, and then it was that the Weather was set in extremely hard, and that was the Time that such an Impression was made upon me as I hope never will again: the eldest Girl then appeared with barely sufficient upon her to hide her Knees, and then it was talked of sending this Man with the whole of his Family into the Workhouse. I certainly felt very much, and expressed my Astonishment at such a Mode of proceeding; and I stated that I wished to know whether a Part of the Family could be sent to the Workhouse; the Answer from the Guardian was, that they could not.

When did this take place?

It took place before the relieving Officer of the Parish.

Was the Guardian there?

He was.

Who was the Guardian?

Mr. Joseph Cundell. The Answer was that they could not. I expressed an Opinion that I considered the Fault was with the Guardians. I wished the Guardian to apply to know whether or not a Part of the Family could not be admitted, and the Answer I received afterwards was that they could not.

How do you mean afterwards; did you not receive the Answer at the Time?

I think it was not at the Time.

Had you any Conversation with the Pauper or his Wife afterwards, with respect to going into the Workhouse?

I do not recollect that I had.

You never recommended to them to go into the House?

Certainly not.

Had you any Conversation with Mr. Kingston afterwards upon that?

I remonstrated against their going into the Workhouse. My Wish was that a Part of the Family should go in. I then learned that there was an Order by the Poor Law Commissioners that prohibited the Guardians; that satisfied me that there was no Blame to be attached to the Guardians; then I understood that a Guardian did propose that the Board of Guardians should petition the Poor Law Commissioners upon this very Case of admitting a Part of this Family into the House.

How do you know that?

I have reason to believe so, because the Individual who proposed the Thing told me that himself, and also showed me a Copy of the Letter he proposed that the Board of Guardians should send to the Commissioners.

Who is this Gentleman?

His Name is Mr. Williams, of Baydon; I think, Mr. John Williams.

Did he tell you what was the Result of his Proposition?

Yes. He stated to me himself that when this Man Watts applied for Relief, he proposed that Part of the Family should be taken into the House: the Answer he received was that they could not be, and that the Clerk searched for the Order from the Commissioners prohibiting them and found it; then he proposed that the Guardians should petition the Poor Law Commissioners. This was his Statement to me, and the Answer he received was that that could not be. He was told that it would be more regular for him to give a proper Notice if he wished to propose a Petition; he then did give Notice that the following Week he would produce a Petition to be sent to the Poor Law Commissioners, and he did so, and it was put to the Vote, and that Petition was negatived by a Majority. He afterwards showed me, which I have in my Possession, what he proposed as the Petition.

Had you any Conversation with Mr. Kingston with respect to the Employment of this Man or his going into the House?

I do not recollect that I had.

Did you ever recommend that he should go into the House?

Certainly not.

Mr. John Kearsey.

You say that you yourself, supposing you had to employ this Man, would not have given him more Wages than Mr. Kingston did?

Certainly not. By the Day, during the Winter, we do not all take the same Course with respect to the Mode of paying the Labourers. I give all my Labourers Beer, in addition to the 8*s.*, at this Time of the Year; during Three Months of the Winter I do not; I make it voluntary during that Time for my Labourers to have Beer or not. I offer them in this plain Way, speaking to my regular Labourers—the daily Labourers.

What do you pay the daily Labourers?

Those that have Families and work regularly for me, those that are with me all the Year through, I generally commence on the 1st of November, and I say, "Which would you rather have, 7*s.* 6*d.* a Week during the short Days, and a Quart of Beer a Day, when you are by the Day; or would you rather have 8*s.* a Week and no Beer?" Answer.—"The Beer, Master." "Which would you rather have, 1*s.* 3*d.* a Quarter for threshing Barley, and Beer, or 1*s.* 4*d.* a Quarter, and no Beer?" Answer.—"The Beer, Master." After March, I make it a Rule to make a little Difference during the long Days, in order not to go by one general Rule, that they shall know to expect that if I do give Beer to them at any other Time they are indebted to me for it; and I think they work better for it. And ever since the 1st of March I have given them 8*s.* a Week, and Three Pints a Day; making it as good as 9*s.* a Week.

After stating this, should you say that Watts received a full Price for his Labour, according to the Wages of that Country?

Yes.

This family lived in a Cottage; do you know what they paid Rent for it?

2*l.* a Year, I believe.

Is that a high Rent or a low Rent?

The Cottages in our Country are low. It is the general Price for Cottages of that Description. The Cottages there are of a middling Description.

He has a little Land to cultivate more than his Garden?

Yes. For that he pays an additional Rent.

That is a considerable Assistance to any Labourer?

I think it is, to a certain Extent. It depends upon how he is circumstanced with his Master.

You say that is the general Rent of Cottages. You mean to say, the general Rent in Shalbourne Parish, not in the neighbouring Parishes?

I do.

They are higher there, are not they?

I believe they are, in some Parishes.

You do not know what they are at Chilton or Ramsbury?

I think they are higher at Ramsbury. Ramsbury was originally a Market Town. I cannot speak as to Chilton.

Can you point out any other Means by which the Income of the Family could have been increased at that Time?

Certainly not during the Winter.

During the Summer could those Two eldest Girls have done any thing, beyond Harvest Work, for their Subsistence?

I do not think that up to the present Time, if they had had Opportunity, they could have earned much. I have been employing them myself, as a Surveyor, at Stone-picking—the Two eldest Girls.

How much do you pay them?

I employ them at Piece Work. I give them Three Farthings a Bushel for picking Flints. I should judge that the Two, perhaps, can earn 8*d.* a Day.

That is 2*s.* a Week each?

Yes, if they stick to their Work. Little Children, going by themselves in that Way to work, we cannot expect them to do so much as with a Guide.

Can

Can you state what they have earned by the Week?
I cannot; for it is but a short Time that I have employed them. Last Monday was my Pay Day, and it was Fair Day, and I did not get home till Nine at Night, and left next morning for London.

You have not made up the Account?
I have not.

You suppose, if they worked as they ought to have done, they might have earned 2*s.* a Week each?
Yes.

There is a Boy about Nine Years of Age, is not there? Did you ever see him?
He is a little Boy; he comes up with them, and he picks up a Stone every now and then; but they are all very little Children.

At that Time and during the Frost they could not be so employed?
Certainly not. They have not done a Day's Work, to my Knowledge, till within this Month. I have taken them entirely from knowing their distressed Situation. I told their Parents, if they would like to send the Children up to me, though I was in another Part of the Parish, I would put them to Stone-picking as long as I could; but that is now nearly over.

Did they meet with Kindness from other Persons in the Parish as well as yourself?
I really cannot tell. I believe the Second Girl has never had any Work before; the eldest might have occasionally worked for Mr. Kingston before the Frost.

What could that Family have earned extra, beyond their Means of Labour, during the Hay and the Corn Harvest, taking the whole Family together?
I should think there was not above One capable of Work. The Price we give Women is 6*d.* a Day; that is the general Price; and I should suppose if that Girl had been employed she would not have received more than 4*d.* a Day at the most.

The Wife then would earn 3*s.* and the Girl 2*s.*?
Yes; but whether the Woman was in a State to go to Work I cannot say.

If she was nursing a young Child she could not go to Work?
No.

Supposing she was in a State to work, how long would she and her Daughter be able to earn any extra Wages?
I suppose about Half the Year.

The Income of the Family in Summer would be 13*s.* a Week?
Yes, during the Summer Part.

During the Summer Part they would earn 6*l.* 10*s.* in the Year over and above his 8*s.* a Week?
Yes; I suppose that is so.

Do you think it likely they would be employed so long as Half the Year at 5*s.* a Week?
I think it is probable; but I do not know how they are situated at Shalbourne as to employing Women; I employ them myself, and am very friendly to it; I employ them perhaps more than others in the Parish.

Is the Man, during the Summer Months, paid more than during the Winter?
I should judge he was; that he would have Piece Work during the Summer.

At Piece Work, what do you imagine that Man could earn?
I really cannot say. I believe he goes to mowing; but I cannot say.

How many Weeks in the Year would a Man of that Sort remain at 8*s.* a Week?
I should judge after the Harvest was over to the Time of Grass-mowing. The Harvest in our County, according to the Routine of the Seasons, gene-

Mr. John Kearsey.

rally ends a Fortnight before Old Michaelmas. That would be the End of September.

From the 1st of October to what Period?
Till the 1st of June, perhaps longer; according to the Forwardness or Backwardness of the Season.

Take it to the 1st of June; that would be the Period during which he would be enabled to earn 8*s.* a Week?
Yes; I think that would be a fair Calculation.

From the 1st of June to the 1st of October what would he be able to earn?
At mowing he ought to earn 3*s.* a Day. Then he has his Scythe and other Things to find out of it.

Can you make something like an Average for these Four Months of the Year?
Speaking at a rough Guess, I should say 2*s.* a Day.

Making 12*s.* a Week during those Four Months.
Yes.

Are there any Deductions to be made from that 12*s.* a Week?
I should say not; because I think he would earn more during the mowing, and that the Surplus would pay for his Scythe. I think he would have a regular Income of 12*s.* a Week.

Would he have Beer?
I am not including Beer. That would be the Outside of his Earnings.

That he might of course convert to the Subsistence of himself and Family?
Yes.

That being the Case, he would earn those Four Months 4*s.* a Week more than he did during the preceding Eight Months?
Yes.

Is there any thing else by which this Man could by Possibility have increased his Income?
Not unless he could by any Means by the extra Land he might cultivate.

Are you at all aware whether he kept a Pig, or any thing of that Kind?
I understood he did sometimes.

Are you aware that he did so during the last Year?
I am not aware whether he did or not. I can speak only from Report. I heard he did in the early Part of the Winter, and that he disposed of it before the hard Weather set in, or about that Time.

Having stated those Circumstances of this Man's Income, are you still of opinion that it was out of the Question his being able to maintain himself, his Wife, and Seven Children out of this Income?
Decidedly he could not.

Supposing there had been no Frost at the Time, do you think there would have been any Means by which he could have increased his Income so as to enable him to do it at that Time?
I think that there are Three Months at least during the Winter when Girls at those Ages cannot possibly go into the Fields to any Advantage, from the Uncertainty of the Weather during those Three Months of the Year, from the 1st of December till the 1st of March; it is inconsistent for us, living in a cold bleak County, to expect Children of that Description to go out into the Field to work.

You by no means disapprove of the new Poor Law?
Certainly not.

You think it a considerable Improvement on the old State of Things?
Decidedly.

Notwith-

Notwithstanding that Approval on your Part of the new Poor Law, are you still of opinion that this is a hard Case occurring under it, and that something ought to be done to afford Relief? *Mr. John Kearsey.*

Certainly. I think the Poor Law Act is a good Act with a little Amendment; that is what I have always said for and against it.

Have you seen any Disposition on the Part of the Farmers in your County to take advantage of the Mode of granting Relief, by refusing to employ the Labourers, sending their Labourers to the Workhouse, and therefore getting them off their Employ during the Winter?

Certainly not.

Are you aware whether Mr. Kingston had more Labourers than would be required for his Farm at that Time?

I should think he had.

What induces him or you to keep more Labourers than are requisite?

With respect to Labour, in the Winter, much depends upon what Sort it is; whether we want a greater or a less Number of Labourers in the Summer. I think it is very probable that Mr. Kingston's Business required many more Labourers in the Summer than in the Winter.

Has it been the Practice with you since the Introduction of the Poor Law to employ rather more Labourers than you wanted upon your Farms?

We have; I have myself.

And you think others have?

Yes, I do.

Do you employ more than you did before the passing of the new Poor Law?

Yes, I think I have; I always employ a great Number during the Winter. I do not know that I should be justified in saying that I absolutely do employ more now than I did before in the Winter; we certainly feel more induced to employ a greater Number.

Has there been any Rise in the Price of Labour in your Parish in consequence of your employing more Persons since the Introduction of the new Poor Law?

I think so. There is a better Price for Labour since the Introduction of the new Poor Law.

To what Extent do you think that has gone?

I think 1*s.* a Week.

That you could have got the same Men to work for 7*s.* a Week who now ask 8*s.*?

I think the Price of Labour would have been lower than it was during the first Two Years of the Act but for the Act.

Would the Wages being lower at that Time have been produced by the Price of Bread, or by what other Circumstances?

By the low Price of Bread.

When the Price of Bread rose again would that make any Alteration?

It has always been the Rule, when there has been a material Alteration in the Price of Bread, to raise the Labour.

Has the Poor Law had the Effect of making the Market for Labour rise?

I think Labour has been paid dearer for since the Operation of the Act.

Has it been in consequence of the Act, or merely in consequence of the Rise in the Price of Bread?

I am not quite prepared to answer that Question.

Do you recollect what was the Price of Bread in 1830 and 1831?

I recollect that, for about Two Years after the coming into operation of the Act, the Price of Bread was then very low, and the Price of Wages was then stationary as before. My Opinion is that had not the Act taken place Labour would have been lower; that the Price would have fallen with the Price of Bread. I think I am correct in informing your Lordships that the Price of

Mr. John Kearsey.

Bread for about Two Years after the Act came into operation would average about 1*s.* a Gallon.

Your Opinion is that if it had not been for the new Poor Law Act the Price of Labour would have fallen; but you do not know whether it has risen in consequence of the new Poor Law Act?

No, I do not.

Can you tell what Proportion the Price of Labour bore to the Price of Bread, before the new Poor Law Act came into operation or at the Time of its coming into operation?

It is generally admitted that the Price of the Gallon Loaf is the fair Price for Labour; that is why I state the Opinion that had not the Poor Law taken place the Price of Labour would have fallen during those Two bad Years for us, as Farmers, when Wheat was selling at 8*l.* to 9*l.* a Load.

You state as your Opinion that that Man Watts cannot support himself and Wife and Seven Children upon the Sum the whole Family could obtain during the Year?

Certainly not.

What Amount of Income do you think would have been sufficient to maintain them?

I have a Statement in my Pocket, in regard to another Family more under my Observation than that Family, that I shall be happy to give in. This is concerning a Family who live near me in my Hamlet, and a Calculation that I have made since I have been in Town as to their probable Income and Expenditure.

Did you draw out this Scale in Concert with Mr. Kingston?

I did not.

The following Paper is read:

London, 9th, May 1838.

Copy of a Statement made to me, John Kearsey, one of the Overseers of the Parish of Shalbourne, in the County of Berks, 1st of April 1838.

A. B. states, that his Family consists of Seven Children: the eldest a Girl of about Fourteen Years of Age, who had no Work during the Winter till the Beginning of March; the Second a Boy in the Receipt of 2*s.* 6*d.* per Week, up to about the Beginning of March, since that Time 3*s.* per Week; the Five other Children are under Ten Years of Age, and neither has earned any thing during the Winter: his Wife at Times unable to do for the Family from a peculiar Complaint: himself in the Receipt of 9*s.* per Week; making his Income 11*s.* 6*d.* per Week, for the Support of Nine in Family. States that Excess of Hunger induced him, about Six Weeks since, to partake several Times with his Family of the Flesh of a Ewe Sheep of his Master's that died from lambing, and that several of his Children were ill in consequence.

A. B.

A. B.'s Case.

Supposed yearly Income.	£	s.	d.
Forty-six Weeks Labour, himself, at 9*s.* per Week	20	14	0
Six Harvest Weeks Labour, himself, at 15*s.* per Week	4	10	0
Fifty-two Weeks Labour, his Son, at 3*s.* per Week	7	16	0
Twenty-six Weeks Labour, his eldest Daughter, at 3*s.* per Week	3	18	0
His Wife and other Children, Earnings, Knitting, &c., Fifty-two Weeks, at 1*s.* per Week	2	12	0
Three Bushels of gleaned Corn, at 7*s.* per Bushel	1	1	0
Potatoes all spent in the Family.			
Total Income	40	11	0
Yearly Balance against the Labourer, 12*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.*, or about 4*s.* 10½*d.* per Week	12	14	6
	53	5	6

Supposed yearly Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
Rent of Cottage and Garden	2	0	0
Nine Gallons Bread per Week, that is 468 Gallons per Annum, at 1*s.* 3½*d.* per Gallon	30	4	6
Cheese, 1*s.* per Week, 2*l.* 12*s.*; Tea and Sugar, 1*s.* per Week, 2*l.* 12*s.*	5	4	0
Butter or Lard, 6*d.* per Week	1	6	0
Soap and Candles, 6*d.* per Week	1	6	0
One Pair Man's Shoes, 14*s.*; One Pair Boy's Shoes, 7*s.*	1	1	0
One Pair Woman's and One Pair Girl's Shoes, at 6*s.* per Pair	0	12	0
Five Pair Children's Shoes, at 4*s.* per Pair	1	0	0
Clothing for Man, Wife, Son, and Daughter, at 1*l.* each	4	0	0
Clothing for Five Children, at 10*s.* each	2	10	0
Bedding and Furniture	1	5	0
Working Implements	0	5	0
Beer, none; Fuel, 1*s.* per Week	2	12	0
Total Expenditure	53	5	6

N. B.—The Man's Earnings should be 13*s.* 10½*d.* per Week (exclusive of Harvest Pay), to make up the Deficiency.

Does

Mr. John Kearsey.

Does the Man referred to in this Calculation work for you?
No; he works for Squire Bevan. He lives near to me.

In point of fact, the Case of the Man to whom this Calculation applies is pretty nearly the same as that of Isaac Watts?
It goes hard towards it; it is not exactly the Case, because there is a Boy who has been regularly employed, and there is a Girl also of that Age that if there had been Work she was able to do it.

The Case is rather more favourable to the Man than Watts's?
Decidedly. I take Watts's Case to be the worst Case in our Parish; and in referring to the Case in question I should fancy that I have produced the next worst. The Woman is not like other Women; she is not able to go out into the Fields to work during the Summer like other Women.

Supposing this Man had had Two of his Children taken into the Workhouse during the Winter, do you think he would have been able to have maintained his Family?
I think he would have had hard Work; still he would have had Four Children to keep, which would have been quite sufficient for 9*s.* a Week, if Credit is given to that as a fair Calculation of what a Man can or cannot subsist on; and I have done that as conscientiously as if I thought I was about to appear before my Maker.

In respect to the Case of Isaac Watts, you think it would have been still more difficult for him, if Two of his Children had been taken into the Workhouse, to have subsisted during the Winter?
Yes; he would still have had Five Children to keep; One more than in the other Case.

Supposing Two of his Children had been taken into the Workhouse, do you think he could have maintained his Wife and the other Five upon his Earnings of 8*s.* a Week?
I think not, so as to enable him to keep up his Strength to do a fair Day's Work. I look upon it that a Man, to do a Day's Work, ought to live better than some of them do.

He would not have done it without suffering a considerable Degree o Hardship?
I think not.

Before the passing of the new Poor Law Act the Labourers used to make very improvident Marriages, did they not?
Yes; I think they did.

Their making those improvident Marriages was attributed to the Effect of the Poor Law, in consequence of the Allowance System?
There was an Opinion of that Kind abroad.

Was that your Opinion?
I cannot say that I am prepared to give an Opinion upon that.

Supposing in the Case of very large Families, such as this Man, that Part of their Children were taken from them and put into the Workhouse, and they were relieved from maintaining them during that Time; do you think that would operate to induce the Labourers to contract the improvident Marriages which used to take place?
I think not. If the Board of Guardians have a Discretion whether they will take them I think they will exercise that Discretion, and not take an unnecessary Proportion of a Man's Family into the Workhouse; only those over and above what the Man could maintain.

You are not afraid that the giving Relief in this Way, by taking their Children from them, would have the Effect of making the Labourers less desirous of working for their Livelihood?
No; for it is only in the Case of Girls that they would require to be taken away, in the earliest Branches of the Family. As to their Boys, there is no Necessity for their being taken into the Workhouse, for there is always Work for

Mr. John Kearsey.

Boys. My Observation as to the Impropriety of sending them out into the Fields to work was confined to Girls. Wherever the elder Branches of a poor Man's Family are Boys there is always plenty of Work for them among the Farmers. We have frequently a Difficulty in getting Boys sufficient.

At how early an Age?
I should fancy, in a general Way, at about Ten Years, or perhaps Eleven; but my Opinion is, that since the Poor have been worse off the Children go with Half a Bellyful of Victuals a great deal of their Time, and they do not get up to Maturity so soon.

Mr. Hall, a Poor Law Commissioner, made an Inquiry of this Case, did not he?
I heard he did. I believe he did.

Were you summoned before him to explain your Application?
I was not.

Did you hear of anybody being summoned before him?
I think that Mr. Kingston was; that they sent for him.

Did they send for any other Persons who had subscribed to that Letter?
I believe not.

Did they send for the resident Minister, Mr. Williams?
He is the Curate. I understand they went to the House of a Gentleman, a Mr. Cannon, who lives close by the Minister. Whether the Minister was there I do not know. I think it is probable that the Commissioner saw him with Mr. Cannon. I recollect that Mr. Kingston himself told me afterwards he was sent for to appear, and went and waited on the Commissioner.

Do you know that Mr. Rowland, the Clerk to the Board, came over to make Inquiry?
I heard he was over there.

Were you summoned before him?
No.

Did you hear that any other Subscriber to that Letter was summoned before him?
I do not think there was any one except Mr. Kingston and Mr. Williams, the resident Curate.

Who is Mr. John Barnes?
He is a Farmer.

Mr. Curtis?
A Farmer.

Mr. Selfe?
A Gentleman Farmer. He is my Landlord in Trust, the acting Trustee for the Family.

Are they all Farmers?
Not every one.

What are the others?
Some of them are Shopkeepers.

Are any of them Labourers?
No.

What is Mr. Charles Briant?
He is a Butcher.

J. Westmacott?
He is a Saddler and Collarmaker.

Josiah Trueman?
He is an Innkeeper, and a Plasterer besides.

Thomas Waters?
He is a Yeoman and Shopkeeper.

Mr. John Kearsey.

R. Baxter?
That is a wrong Name; it should be Baker; he is a Farmer.

Thomas Baker?
He is a Farmer.

William Barnes?
He is a Farmer.

Anthony Hopkins?
He is Agent for Squire Bevan.

William Briant?
He is a Shopkeeper.

William Baverstock?
He is a Farmer.

Ann Bunguy?
A Milliner and Farmer.

John Edwards?
He is not now residing in the Place; he is Surveyor of the Turnpike Roads, and Spirit Merchant.

George Baverstock?
A Carpenter.

John Mildenhall?
A Publican.

George Goddard?
A Blacksmith.

Thomas Arman?
A Blacksmith.

Alfred Pike?
A Farmer.

Are they all Rate-payers within the Parish?
Yes; every one.

Are there many other Rate-payers within the Parish?
There are several, but those formed the Majority.

Both in point of Numbers and of Value?
Yes.

With whom did this Application originate; with you or Mr. Kingston?
I should say with us both; which first mentioned the Thing I cannot say.

Who drew up the Paper?
I did.

Did you go round with it?
I did some Part of the Parish. This was made public at a Vestry; it was a known Thing in the Parish some few Days before, but postponed in consideration of the Vestry, as we should see one another there.

Were all those Gentlemen at the Vestry?
Not every one.

Did all at the Vestry sign it?
No.

Did some of the Vestry object to it?
Yes; I think so.

Can you state the Names of the Objectors?
Mr. James Cannon and Mr. Cundell.

Who is Mr. Cannon?
He is a Farmer and Sheep Dealer.

Mr. John Kearsey.

Did any others object to it besides those Two?
There were some that refused to sign, understanding that it was intended for a very different Purpose.

Did anybody at the Vestry object, except Mr. Cundell and Mr. Cannon?
I do not recollect that there was any other objected to it.

Did others, besides Mr. Cannon and Mr. Cundell, who were at the Vestry, refuse to sign or abstain from signing?
Yes; and afterwards it was offered to them several Times, and they were asked whether they would like to sign it.

And they refused?
Yes, but not on every Occasion.

Who asked them?
I did.

Did you ask many People who refused?
Not a great Number.

You have given an Account of the Income and Expenditure of a Man; you say there is a Deficiency of 12*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.*; how was that 12*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.* made up, or does he owe that?
That is not made up at all.

Do you think he owes this?
I cannot tell what his pecuniary Circumstances are.

Was this the Deficiency of the last Year?
That is my Calculation as to what I think it proper that a Man should have to exist upon properly, and what that Man's Earnings are.

Taking the last Year as the Period?
Yes.

You mean to say, that he should have that to spend to live as he ought to do?
Certainly.

He and his Children did live?
Yes; they are alive.

Are they not also comfortable?
I thought, after the Report of their eating this Flesh, some of the Children would have died; they appeared in a very bad State. I was applied to for an Order for the Doctor.

Do you know whether they had eaten this Flesh?
The Man and Woman told me so.

Did they eat it from Necessity?
They told me so, and I believe it.

Is the Man a Man of good Character?
Of very good Character.

Did this Family exhibit the Appearance of great Distress?
Certainly.

In what respect?
In Appearance and Dress.

Does their Cottage appear in a very dilapidated State?
Yes.

Is it your Cottage?
No; it is not.

Whose Cottage is it?
It has lately fallen into the Hands of my Landlady, I believe.

Who is your Landlady?
Mrs. Randall.

What is the Rent?
I believe 2*l.*

Has he any Potato Garden?
He has a small Garden with his Cottage.

Has he any Allotment?
No, he has not.

Do you know Watts's Allotment?
I do not.

You do not know where it is?
No.

You say it is utterly impossible Watts could have supported his Family from the Time he came out of the Workhouse up to the present Time?
I should say so.

His Family have been supported?
Yes.

Have you seen them?
Yes; I have seen them almost every Day, those Two Children, for some Time past.

Did they appear to have suffered much?
They appeared, in the Winter Time, to have suffered very much. Their Appearance has improved since, having had Work.

Did you see the Man after he came out of the Workhouse?
I saw him a few Days afterwards; but, I had been so little accustomed to see the Man, I cannot speak from that.

Do you know Mrs. Watts?
Yes, I do.

Is she a notable Woman?
I do not know but what she is.

You never heard she was not?
No; I never heard any thing against her.

Have you found the Labourers in general more civil and accommodating since the passing of this Bill than they were before?
I believe they are.

Have you found them so yourself?
Yes.

They are more anxious to get Work?
Certainly. They are more civil, and I think more anxious to get Work.

You find them more desirous to please their Masters?
Yes; I think there is an Improvement in that respect.

Do you find them do more Work?
I do not find much Difference in that respect.

Are you in the habit of taking yearly Servants?
Yes; in the regular Way; hiring. Carters and Shepherds, and those Sort of Servants, we hire by the Year.

You have spoken of the Employment there is for the Boys; was that the Case previous to the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act?
It was.

In the Family you refer to, the Daughter had been employed during Twenty-six Weeks; would that have been the Case before?
Yes, as regards such a Girl as that referred to. That Girl, by the Statement, had no Employment during the Winter. That is her whole probable Employment during the Year.

Mr. John Kearsey.

Did not you say there was more Employment now for Day Labourers than there was before the Poor Law Amendment Act came into operation?
I do not recollect saying that.

But is not that the Fact?
I am not aware that it is.

Have not you given additional Employment to them yourself?
No. I gave them Employment before, to keep them off the Roads.

Did you give the Children Employment before?
Yes.

You say you employ, on an Average, Ten Labourers?
I should think the Average would be under that; that is, of Men.

Do you reckon that Ten Labourers is the average Number required for 500 Acres?
I cannot say that in a general Way. 500 Acres of some Land would require double the Number of Labourers that other Land would.

Is it an average Number for such Land as yours?
I should judge that 500 Acres would not require so many Men in a general Way.

Would Mr. Kingston be inclined to give this 8*s.* a Week for the remaining Part of the Year if Watts was employed by him, or by anybody else, the other Four Months at Task Work?
I was speaking of the Probability of his being employed by Mr. Kingston the Four Months at Task Work.

Do you believe that he is employed that Four Months at Task Work?
I should think he is, but I cannot state that as a Fact.

Do you think it likely a Farmer would employ such a Labourer as Watts for Four Months of the Year at the advantageous Wages of Task Work, and still give him 8*s.* a Week for the remaining Eight Months?
I think there is no Question that such a Man as Watts would, during the Four Months, be employed at Task Work.

Do you think it is the Practice to employ Boys, or young Men above Eighteen, at 5*s.* a Week, for any considerable Portion of the Year?
Yes, I think it is; but young Men of about Eighteen are considered with us Boys. Children now are not put to Work so early as they were when I was a Boy. We frequently see large Boys driving the Plough that, in my Opinion, ought to be holding the Plough; and that is one Reason, in my Opinion, why the Labourers are not so useful as they used to be.

Do you consider it is common for Farmers to give such small Wages as 5*s.* a Week to young Men of Eighteen?
Certainly.

To a considerable Extent?
Yes.

If they give those Wages according to the Work they can do, why do they give Boys or young Men of Eighteen such small Wages?
Those Sort of Persons are put to go to plough generally, and they go with the Sheep—Work of less Value.

Do you mean to hold, or drive the Plough?
Sometimes to hold the Plough. There are Boys of Fourteen and Fifteen driving the Plough, frequently, at 3*s.* 6*d.* or 4*s.*, and some less than that; and young Men of Eighteen or Twenty holding the Plough, at 5*s.* a Week.

Supposing an able-bodied Man in your Parish of the Age of Thirty to receive 8*s.* a Week, do you conceive a young Man of Eighteen would be worth more than 5*s.* a Week, in the same Proportion?
Certainly not.

Mr. John Kearsey.

As you rate them according to their actual Work, a young Man probably would not be worth more?

No. It is not a common thing for young Men of about Eighteen Years of Age to receive more than 5*s.* a Week. They are hired in general to be Carters or Shepherds, or to hold or drive the Plough.

Is not their Work worth more, if they are employed on the best Work they can do?

The best Work ought not to be given to them.

There is an Over-supply of Labourers, which occasions young Men having Work inferior to that they could do?

Yes.

Can you state whether Crime has increased or diminished in your Neighbourhood since the passing of the new Poor Law?

I do not think it has diminished.

Is it increased?

I think we lose more in little pilfering Cases.

Has Sheep-stealing increased?

We have heard of a great deal of Sheep-stealing this Winter.

Do you attribute that to increased Distress among the Agricultural Labourers?

If I am asked my Opinion it is this: that if the Income of a Man with a Family is very curtailed, and he is not able to find his Family sufficient Food, there is a Saying with us in the Country, that if he cannot get it by Hook he gets it by Crook; therefore I think, in all Probability, that it will be on the Increase unless something is done to relieve them and their Families.

You state that this Man had been driven by Distress to feed on a Sheep which died in lambing, and was consequently in a feverish State; had you ever heard of a similar Case before the passing of the Act?

No, I never did.

You think this poor Man was driven by absolute Distress to feed upon this Sheep in its unhealthy State?

I do.

Can you state what Employment the Inmates of your Union Workhouse are engaged in?

I have never seen the Workhouse but once, and then but for a short Time. I certainly was pleased with the Mode of the Employment of the Girls; they appear to have Employment for them in sewing and knitting, and so on; and they are taught, I believe, good moral Duties. As for the Boys, it appeared to me there is very little or nothing for them to do. There is a Grist Mill in the House, but there was not a sufficient Number of Hands to employ it.

Are they taught any Handicraft Work?

I believe not; but I have not seen the House but once.

What is the general State of Feeling on the Part of the Peasantry with respect to the new Poor Law Bill in your County?

We do not hear much about it; but they dread the House.

If this Alteration were made of taking in Part of the Family where there is a large Family, and relieving the Father from the Support, do you think the Remainder of the Bill would give complete Satisfaction to the Rate-payers in your Neighbourhood?

I think it would.

That is the only Alteration you would propose?

As regards Relief.

How would it be with regard to Labourers; would they like to have some of their Children taken from them, or not?

I think they would; I cannot see any Hardship in it. Were I to reply individually, I should say I had rather have a Girl that had been there. I think the Morals of the young Females would be so very much improved, that the

Mr. John Kearsey.

Difficulty which now exists among us to get valuable Servants of that Kind would be very much lessened. The Matter of fact is, there are no Girls in the Country who like to go to Service when once they are sent into the Field to work; the Idea of Liberty causes them to like it better than going into Servitude.

When they once got to that Time of Life that they can get their Livelihood in the Field would you send them into the Workhouse?
No. There would be no Fear of their staying there when Work could be got out.

Your Idea is, that if they were properly educated, as you conceive they would be, in the Workhouse, they would go from the Workhouse into Service, and become good Servants?
Yes, just so.

You think it would be a very good Thing that the Labourers Daughters should be sent to the Workhouse, that they might be trained as good Servants?
Just so.

Would they stay there when they could get Work in the Field?
I think they would not.

You think they would be more inclined to go into Service than to work in the Field?
My Opinion is, that supposing a Girl is brought up at home under her Parents, with Work occasionally, the rest Part of her Time is spent very much in pilfering Habits;—that I have been many Times Eyewitness to;—and that they have an Aversion to Service when they have been so brought up. My Idea is that they would provide for themselves if they were sent to the House, and that being taught good moral Conduct, as well as brought up to industrious Habits, they would then no longer feel Servitude a Confinement.

You are understood to say, that you would propose sending Girls into the Workhouse only in the Case of very large Families?
I was there speaking of the Necessity of giving Relief?

You confine that to Persons having very large Families?
Just so.

Do you recommend the Introduction of the Children of destitute Parents as a Means of Relief or as a Means of Education?
As a Means of accomplishing both Ends. I think it would accomplish both. It would afford Relief, most assuredly, to the remaining Part of the Family at home, and confer a great Benefit on the Individuals sent, for the Reasons I have stated.

You object to the Relief of a destitute Family by the Introduction into the Workhouse of the entire Family?
Yes; I should object to that upon this Ground, that it would be putting the Rate-payers to an unnecessary Expense.

You do not object to putting a Family into the Workhouse because it is a severe Measure to the whole Family, but because it is an increased Charge to the Rate-payers?
I do not perceive that there is any Punishment inflicted on destitute Children in being sent there. I think that there are a Number of Objections to a Man and his Wife and the whole Family being sent as a Punishment to the Man. I should say that would be a Hardship to the Man; the Man is obliged to leave his House and his Establishment and his Goods to the Mercy of the World. If the House is given up, how is he get a House again, and to get Goods; there he must remain.

In point of fact, did Isaac Watts lose his House and his Furniture?
He stayed there but a little Time; his Master kept it for him.

Have you looked into the ancient Poor Law of the Country at all?
I am aware that that operated in a different Manner.

Your

Mr. John Kearsey.

Your Opinion is, that if a poor Man under the Circumstances of Isaac Watts applies for Relief, it is a hard Thing for him to be obliged to go in with his whole Family?

Yes; and not only a Hardship to him, but to the Rate-payers; it operates both Ways.

Speaking of him alone, you think it a Hardship that he should be forced to go into the House?

Yes. I believe him to be a Man willing to do the best he can for his Family out of the House, and that therefore the Hardship would be felt the more severely.

You state that you think the Boys do not go so early to holding and driving the Plough as they did when you were young; can you assign any Reason for that?

I cannot, unless it was from there being superfluous Labourers; but, as I observed before, there is not a superfluous Number of Boys, generally speaking.

Over how many Years would your Experience extend?

I went to Plough when I was Eight Years of Age; I was brought up to hard Labour myself; I was my Father's Shepherd and Carter and every thing belonging to it. I am giving my Opinion as a practical Man.

You did not hold the Plough at that Age?

No, I did not; but I was my Father's Shepherd before I was Twenty Years of Age, and made the Ricks and thatched them. We have a Difficulty in getting handy Persons to do those Things now.

In what Year might that be?

I am now just turned Fifty-three.

Do you imagine that the Facility with which Persons have been relieved in consequence of having large Families has tended a little to make the Children less industrious, and to make their Parents less anxious to find them Work?

Yes; I think there is something in that.

If we were to revert to that by taking them into the Workhouse, would not that have the Effect of making their Parents less anxious to provide for them?

There is no one more averse to the old System than myself. I individually wish to see but a little Alteration; and I beg your Lordships to refer to that Petition, which I have no Hesitation in saying was got up principally by myself. I think you will there perceive there is little asked for, and nothing that your Lordships and the Country have any Reason to be alarmed at. As to going back to the old System, that is the last Thing I would wish. I wish to see that the Girls of large Families, where Relief is necessary, should be so relieved in preference to any other Mode of Relief; for I am very well aware that there are many ill Consequences that would attend the relieving them in any other Way.

You would confine the Relief that you propose to give to able-bodied Labourers to taking the Female Part of the Children into the Workhouse?

Yes. There is always plenty of Work for Boys.

Would you confine that to those who married before the passing of the Act, or give it to all?

I think, my Lord, we are all as Men very well aware that when we marry we cannot tell what is to follow. In my Opinion, it would be Hardship at all Times; at least I feel it when I see Children suffering for Want of Food.

Some able-bodied Labourers knew before they married what was likely to follow within a few Weeks?

Yes; that has been too much the Practice formerly.

Is that less the Case now?

Yes; a great Improvement has been effected by the new Poor Law Act in that respect.

Mr. John Kearsey.

You say you are not anxious to revert to the old System; do you not think that the taking in Part of a Family, which is giving Relief in aid of Wages, would be a Recurrence to the old System?

I cannot conceive that it is, for I confine myself to that.

You confine yourself to extreme Cases only?

Yes; and only in Cases of Females; for even in frosty Weather some Employment might be found for Boys.

You stated that the taking a whole Family into the House was a Hardship upon the Man and likewise upon the Rate-payers, which both Parties would wish to avoid; would it not be very easy to avoid it by the Rate-payers agreeing to give the Man some additional Payment?

The great Difficulty would be to get the Rate-payers to agree.

Is it not an easy Way of getting them to agree, to put large Families into the Workhouse, which would occasion to the Parish a greater Expense?

I do not see it in that Light.

Have you known no Case in which such an Effect has been produced?

I should think that a very improbable Mode of bringing the Farmers to act in unison. From being a Miller, as well as being brought up a Farmer from the Plough Tail, I fancy I know pretty well what belongs to the Disposition of Farmers, and I should say, as a Body of Men, they are the most difficult to be brought to act in unison.

Supposing Eight or Nine Families had gone into the Workhouse with Six or Seven Children each, would not that have entailed a very heavy Expense upon the Parish?

No Doubt it would.

Suppose they had remained there Six or Eight Weeks, do not you think that the Farmers would have been brought to agree to raise the Wages?

I do not think they would. My Opinion is, if Wages was high, that every Farmer would be endeavouring to shift off a Man with a large Family, to ease his Pocket.

Do you happen to know whether Isaac Watts would have willingly parted with Two or Three of his Children, if they had been sent into the Workhouse?

I cannot state that as a Fact.

Was he aware of the Representation which was drawn up by you and sent to the Poor Law Commissioners?

I dare say he was. In a small Place every thing done in the Parish is known.

Do you happen to know whether there has been any Diminution in the Number of illegitimate Children since the new Poor Law passed?

I should say there has been a much less Number than there was before.

You stated that you have employed Two of the Children of Isaac Watts in Stone-picking recently; was that for the Benefit of your own Farm, or as the Surveyor of Roads?

As the Surveyor of the Roads.

That Employ was paid for out of the Rates?

Yes.

You have given a Sort of Estimate of the probable Expense of a Family; in that Expense you did not calculate that the Labourer ate any Meat or drank any Beer?

Certainly not.

He is to live on Bread and Cheese or Tea; still there would be a considerable Difficulty?

Yes.

In calculating the Sum, you have supposed the Family in good Health and Strength during the whole Year?

Yes; there is no Allowance made for Sickness, and it is supposed that his whole Time will be occupied.

Mr. John Kearsey.

You stated that you wished that only the Girls should be taken into the Workhouse, for that you believe there is Employment for the Boys; supposing there is a Part of the Country in which there is no Employment for Boys, would you take in Boys as well as Girls?
Certainly.

Are you personally acquainted with Mr. Kingston?
Yes.

Have you been so for any Length of Time?
Yes.

Do you believe that he would be desirous of the Admission of a Family into the Workhouse, that they might be maintained at the Expense of the Parish during the Time that he had no Occupation for them, in order that he might lay up in store for himself the Services of this Family against the Period when he should require their Aid?
I cannot entertain such an Idea for a Moment.

Do you think he would in the meantime wish to have his Work done by the cheaper Agency of single Men?
No; Mr. Kingston is as fair to employ married Men as any in my Opinion.

You do not think that is a fair Representation of his Character, having known him some Years?
No; I do not think there can be any thing amiss said of Mr. Kingston's Character.

If Watts had been sent to the Workhouse at that Time, Mr. Kingston would have derived the Advantages to which those Questions refer?
No more than any other Person would.

Any other Person paying Rates would have derived those Advantages?
I should say, so long as that Man and the whole of his Family remain in the Workhouse so long was he and every Rate-payer under a Disadvantage. I have no Hesitation in saying myself, in support of Mr. Kingston's Character, that I should individually have acted, after Watts had applied and had been refused Relief several Times, unless the whole of them went into the Workhouse. If I had been that Man's Master, and he could not possibly have obtained Relief otherwise, I should have said, "You had better go in;" and I believe Mr. Kingston was actuated in saying what he did by no other than a humane Motive, seeing there was a Man with a Wife and Seven Children, and none of them that could earn any thing. How was he to exist?

You would have given him very good and honest Advice, but the Result would have been that of throwing the Weight upon the rest of the Parish, as well as yourself?
Yes; but I think it is very unfair for us to look at Things in that Light. I hope and trust I shall be ever willing to relieve those who are in Distress.

Do you conceive that if, in the Case of Watts, Part of his Family had been sent to the Workhouse, there would have been many similar Applications?
Certainly not. William Knight's Family probably might have applied, which is a large Family, but not equal to Watts's; and their Two eldest are Girls.

Do you think that if such an Indulgence were given in a few Cases it would induce the Labourers to relax their Exertions to provide for their Children?
Certainly not. It would be in very few Cases it would be done. I have that Confidence in the Board of Guardians, that they would not take Three, Four, or Five, but would act with proper Discretion.

In point of fact, would the taking those Two Girls into the Workhouse have enabled Isaac Watts to support the rest of his Family without considerable Difficulty?
Certainly it would not; but I think he would have been content to struggle hard for a short Time.

Mr. John Kearsey.

Are you to be understood that you do not know whether Isaac Watts would have sent his Children into the Workhouse?
I could not say whether he would or would not.

Did he apply to have Two of his Children put into the Workhouse?
No; he applied for Relief several Times.

It is your Opinion that, though the taking those Two Children into the Workhouse would not have removed his Difficulties, it would very considerably have relieved him?
Yes; and I think he would have been thankful to have had Two of his Children taken from him out of the Seven, and have got on with the others in the best Way he could; not that it would have been sufficient to have relieved him altogether.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Richard Hall, Esq.

RICHARD HALL Esquire is called in, and examined as follows:

YOU are an Assistant Poor Law Commissioner?
I am.

How long have you been employed in that Situation?
I was appointed in the Beginning of March 1835.

Where has your Residence been?
The greater Part of the Time in Berkshire and Oxfordshire. I was also in Leicestershire, Staffordshire a little, and Derbyshire.

You were Assistant Poor Law Commissioner in Berkshire the last Year, were you not?
I was.

Do you remember your Attention being called by a Letter from the Commissioners in Somerset House to the Case of a Man of the Name of Isaac Watts, in the Parish of Shalbourne?
Yes.

That was in consequence of a Letter which had been sent from the Rate-payers to the Poor Law Commissioners?
It was.

You were directed to inquire into the Circumstances of that Case?
Yes.

In consequence of that Direction you went to Shalbourne?
I did.

Whom did you see there?
I saw several of the Rate-payers of the Place; Mr. Cundell, Mr. Cannon, and Mr. Kingston. I was accompanied on that Occasion by a Guardian of the Hungerford Union and by the Clerk of the Union.

Who was the Guardian of the Hungerford Union?
Mr. Smith, then a Guardian.

Mr. Cundell was the Guardian of Shalbourne Parish?
He was then the Guardian of Shalbourne Parish.

Was the resident Curate of the Parish present?
I did not see him; he was not at home.

What Steps did you take to ascertain the Truth of the Statement with respect to Isaac Watts?
I had a great deal of Conversation with those Three Farmers and Rate-payers; Mr. Cundell, Mr. Cannon, and Mr. Kingston.

Altogether or separately?
Separately and altogether. Besides that I visited several Cottages of Labourers in the Village of Shalbourne.

Did you visit Isaac Watts's Cottage?
Amongst the rest I visited Isaac Watts's Cottage.

In what State did you find that Cottage?
I found it in a better State than One or Two I had visited, but worse than others.

In what respect in a better State; in a cleaner State, better provided with Furniture, and so forth?
Cleaner, and better provided with Furniture.

What Sort of Furniture did you find, and to what Extent, in this Man's Cottage?
There was One Table, I cannot say whether Two, in the Room, and there were several Chairs.

Was there any Appearance of its having been stripped for the Purpose of pawning, or obtaining Money for the Maintenance of the Family?
No; I should say not.

Was the Woman present?
She was.

Had she a Child at her Breast?
She had.

Were the other Children there?
Yes; they were all there.

In what State were they with respect to Clothing?
They were not well clothed; the younger one especially ill clothed.

What was their Appearance as to Health?
It was good; it did not strike me as the reverse.

Did you see the Man himself?
I did.

Did he appear able bodied and well able to work?
I should say he was not a fine looking Man at all; he did not look robust

Was he a little Man?
Rather a little Man.

You inquired into the Character of the Man and his Wife?
I did.

What Character did you hear of him?
I heard nothing against his Morality or Sobriety, but that the Wife was a bad Manager; that they were destitute of Energy or Resource of any Kind.

Did you understand that he himself was an industrious Man, willing to work?
I heard nothing to the contrary.

And constant at his Work?
I heard nothing to the contrary.

Of course you inquired into their Means of Subsistence?
I did.

What was the Result of that Inquiry?
The Result was that the Man had constant Work, that none of the Children were at that Moment employed, that the Woman was not employed, that Two of the Children had been employed the Year before during a Part of the Year.

The Two eldest?
I think it was the eldest and the Third; the eldest Girl and the eldest Boy.

The Woman, having a Child at her Breast, could not by Possibility have done any thing for her Livelihood?
Not at that Time.

Therefore, if any thing besides the Man's Wages could be obtained towards the Maintenance of the Family, it must have been by the Children?
Yes.

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Did you inquire the Amount of his Wages?
I did. The Amount of his Wages was stated at 8*s.* a Week.

Did you inquire how far that was the Amount of Wages usually given to Men in his Situation in that Parish?
I learned that that was the Amount of Wages usually given in that Parish; that some were receiving 9*s.*, but that 8*s.* was the Wages usually given in that Parish.

Did you ascertain how far the Work done by this Man for 8*s.* for Mr. Kingston could have been done by young Persons and unmarried Persons at a less Rate than was paid to this Man?
I was informed that such Work would have been done by unmarried Men for a less Sum than 8*s.*

In that Case Mr. Kingston was actually paying for that Work more than he could have got it done for by others?
Provided at the Time there were any young Men at liberty to take the Work.

Have you any Doubt that there were single Men in the Parish at the Time, who would have been willing to take it?
I did not hear of any out of Work.

Have you any Reason to suppose there would have been any Difficulty in Mr. Kingston getting single Men to have done that Work at less, for which he was paying 8*s.*?
I have no Means of forming a very accurate Opinion upon that Point. I inquired whether there were People out of Work at the Time in the Parish, and, as I recollect the Answer, I was informed that there were not.

Then if that was the Case, how could he get it done at a less Price?
He could not, if there had been no Man to take it.

Were not there some young Men at Work in the Parish at a lower Rate of Wages?
Yes; I understood that was the Case, that there were some young Men doing Work in the Parish at a lower Rate.

Then it would have been equally open to Mr. Kingston to get such Men?
If there were any out of Employment.

If there had been any employed at 5*s.* a Week, if he had offered them 1*s.* addition, he might have got them, probably, to do his Work at that?
He might, probably.

If he was paying this Man 8*s.* a Week, and could have got it done at 6*s.* or 7*s.*, he was, in effect, giving that Man something in the Way of Charity?
I can hardly agree in that, because I think that 8*s.* was the average Rate at which other Labourers in the Parish were working; the few Men working at less were stated as Exceptions, and some few were receiving larger Wages. I am not aware whether there were any out of Work; but when I asked what was the ordinary Rate of Wages, I was told that 8*s.* a Week was the then Rate of Wages for a Man of ordinary Capacity—at ordinary Work.

Provided he was married?
No; I do not think that there was any regular Difference made between single Men and married Men. I was informed that Mr. Kingston would employ single Men, and had and did employ single Men, paying them less than he paid the married Men.

In your Report you have stated that you did hear that Mr. Kingston did employ single Men, to whom he paid 5*s.* a Week?
Yes.

You give a Reason for it. What makes you think that his Object in giving 8*s.* to Isaac Watts for his Work, when he could have got it done for 5*s.* or 6*s.*, was to ensure to himself the Services of this Man during the Summer?
I draw that Inference, not from his paying him such an Amount of Wages, but from the Fact of his having persuaded Isaac Watts to go into the Work-

house

house ; telling him, that if in May he came out again, he would then employ him, and a certain Portion of his Family. *Richard Hall, Esq.*

Mr. Kingston did employ him, and pay him the full Wages that were usually paid in that Parish ; but those Wages were not found sufficient for the Man's Subsistence, and that of his Family ?

That was the Ground of his Application.

That being the Case, what would you have had Mr. Kingston do ? He was willing to employ the Man at his full Wages during the Winter. Why do you collect from that in any Degree that he advised the Man to apply for Relief, and go into the House, that he might avail himself of the Services of the Man in the Summer ?

Perhaps I have not expressed myself so clearly as I might ; but I am led to draw that Inference from Mr. Kingston's Conduct. According to the Information I received, he had taken much Pains to assure the Man that if he would remain in the Workhouse until a certain Period of the Year, he, Mr. Kingston, would take him and his Children into his Employment again.

Mr. Kingston never refused to employ the Man at 8*s.* a Week ?

No ; Mr. Kingston never refused to employ the Man at 8*s.* a Week ; but he knew that in the Month of May, when the Season opened again, he should have Employment to which he could profitably put him ; and he recommended his going into the House in the meantime, which would be an Assistance to him, and would obviate the Insufficiency of the Wages the Man was at that Time receiving from him.

If Mr. Kingston was willing to have gone on from that Time paying him the 8*s.* a Week, what possible Benefit could Mr. Kingston derive from his going into the Workhouse ?

There was no Advantage to Mr. Kingston.

He would, by continuing to employ him, have equally secured his Services as if he had gone into the Workhouse ?

I suppose it was under the Apprehension that the Man could not continue to work for him at that Amount of Wages.

What made you think at the Time that the Man would not have continued to work for him at 8*s.* a Week ?

Because he applied on the Ground that his Wages were not equal to his Support.

Did you ask Mr. Kingston whether he would have continued to pay him his Wages ; 8*s.* a Week ?

No, I did not.

Have you any Reason to suppose that he would have dismissed him from his Employment at the 8*s.* a Week ?

No, I have not.

Then on what Ground do you suppose he persuaded the Man to go into the Workhouse for the Purpose of securing his Services and those of his Family ?

I should say that it was with that view. I knew that Mr. Kingston persuaded the Man to go into the Workhouse on the Man's Authority and Mr. Kingston's Admission, and that when he persuaded him to go into the Workhouse he promised he would take him and his Family into his Employment when he came out in the Month of May. I presume he persuaded the Man to go into the Workhouse under the Idea that he would not remain and work for him during the intervening Time at such a low Rate of Wages as 8*s.* a Week.

In that Case he must have got for himself some other Place, to which he could have gone, where he would have got a greater Amount of Wages ; did that occur to you ?

In fact, I did not carry the Matter out to that Extent.

Then if you did not carry the Matter out to that Extent, how came you to report to the Poor Law Commissioners that that was the Cause of it ; that it

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did not arise from the extreme Distress of the Family, and their not being able to maintain themselves upon the usual Wages of the Country?

The Grounds upon which I drew that Inference I have endeavoured to state; they appeared to me sufficient to found that Inference upon.

Do they still appear to you sufficient to found that Inference upon?

I confess they do.

Is not the Fact this: that Mr. Kingston was employing this Man at Wages rather higher than he could have got the Work done, that he was willing to continue to employ the Man during the Winter, and had in fact done so the previous Winter, and that having done so he had secured the Services of this Man in the ensuing Summer, and that being willing still to do so there was no Reason at all for supposing that he sent him into the Workhouse for that Object?

I confess I drew that Inference; and I think I should still draw it, from the Circumstance of Mr. Kingston being so explicit in his Promise to the Man, that provided he was relieved from the Necessity of paying him a larger Amount of Wages, or even the same Amount of Wages which he was doing, in the Month of May he would receive him back into his Service and employ his Children, by which the Man would probably be able to subsist.

Did it mean any thing more than this; that he could not afford to give more than 8*s.* a Week, that he would try to procure him Relief, but that if he could not subsist upon the 8*s.* he must go into the Workhouse, and that if he came out in the Month of May, he would again employ him?

It is very easy to put a Construction, certainly, either one Way or another, either favourable or unfavourable.

Is not the Inference in this Letter, and which you now persist in, drawn rather from the Fact of Mr. Kingston having used Persuasion to the Man, than the mere Fact of his having told him what the Alternative was?

Certainly it is.

You are aware that 8*s.* a Week was the usual Rate of Wages for an able-bodied Man in that Parish?

I believe it was.

Do you believe that Isaac Watts was a more able-bodied Man than many others?

No.

Could there have been any great Advantage to Mr. Kingston in employing him in May, rather than any other able-bodied Man?

No.

Is it not rather to be inferred that he gave him that Preference from Watts fearing that he should lose his Place when he came out?

That is probable.

Did you make Inquiry of Mr. Kingston as to the Number of Persons whom he employed upon his Farm as Labourers?

No, I did not.

Are you at all aware whether he employed more or fewer Labourers than Persons holding such a Quantity of Land usually do?

I am not aware whether he employed more or less.

Supposing the Fact was, that he employed more Labourers than were absolutely necessary, would you still entertain the same Opinion as to his Reason for persuading Watts to go into the Workhouse?

Certainly, if that Fact were established, I should have a different Idea of Mr. Kingston's Liberality.

And that he would not be so likely to throw a Man off, and recommend his going into the Workhouse, for the Purpose of securing his Services at a future Time?

I should think so.

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Did you not make Inquiries into that Point?
I did not make particular Inquiries as to the Number of Labourers he was employing upon his Farm.

Did you inquire whether Mr. Kingston was the Originator of the Suggestion of Two of the Children going into the Workhouse?
I do not recollect making particular Inquiries as to that Point, but my Impression is, from what I heard, that he was not the Originator of the Suggestion; but I do not recollect distinctly asking that Question, whether he was or not.

You did gather that he was not the Originator?
Yes.

Do you recollect whether it was stated who was the original Suggester of that Petition?
I understood Mr. Kearsey.

It was, of course, subsequent to the Receipt of that Letter you made those Inquiries?
Yes.

You suggest in your Report that the Object of Mr. Kingston was, that he might have his Work done by the cheaper Agency of single Men, during the Time that this Man was in the Workhouse?
Yes.

Have you any particular Reason for thinking that he was very anxious to keep this Man in his Service?
I think that, at certain Seasons of the Year, the Farmers are desirous of securing the Services of the Labourers.

Supposing that he had said, "I will not give you any Work during the Winter," and that he could have got the Work done cheaper during that Time, is it your Opinion that he would have had any Difficulty in getting that Man's Services again in May?
He might have done so; or the Man might have gone to another Master.

There was no Scarcity of Labourers in that Parish?
Not at that particular Moment.

Did you hear that there was, during the Hay or Corn Harvest, a Scarcity of Labourers?
There is Work for more Labourers in that Parish, as in all the neighbouring Parishes, during Harvest than there is during the other Parts of the Year.

Has there been any particular Rise in the Price of Labour in that Parish, or any thing showing a Scarcity of Labourers?
Wages always rise in Harvest in that Parish.

That is common with every other Parish, is it not?
Yes.

Is there any Reason to suppose that Labour was particularly scarce in that Parish as compared with other Parishes in the Neighbourhood?
I should think not.

At any rate, it should seem that there was no Inducement to Mr. Kingston to have paid those extra Wages during the Winter to this Man, except from Motives of Kindness and almost Charity?
I think it is always to the Interest of a Farmer to continue his Engagements with the same Labourers as long as he can, and that the Farmers are aware of that.

Do you think that was sufficient to induce him to pay this Man more Wages than he could have got the Work done for by other Persons?
I think that if this Man had been removed he could have got the Work done, certainly.

Why do you attribute to Mr. Kingston another Motive?
I have stated the only Grounds on which I drew that Inference.

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Did you endeavour to ascertain how far this Man, Isaac Watts, could maintain his Family on that 8*s.* he received per Week and upon the Wages his Wife and Family were able to obtain in the rest of the Year?

I know that he did maintain his Wife and Family up to that Period upon the Wages of himself together with their Earnings.

Then his Family had been lately increased?

It had been increased within no distant Period.

Supposing the Woman had earned something formerly, she could not have done so for some Time?

She could not.

You say you know he did maintain them upon those Wages; do you mean any thing more than that you know he had had no more Wages than that upon which to maintain them?

I mean to say, that the Family had been maintained, up to the Period at which I visited them, on what the Man had been able to get by his own Industry and the Earnings of his Family.

Supposing the Man had been able to maintain his Family with Five or Six Children, did it follow that he would be able to maintain his Family when he came to have Seven?

That did not follow, certainly.

What other Step could he take, except that of applying for Relief?

I am not aware that there was any other he could take than applying for Relief.

Were there any other Means by which he could have increased his Wages or have obtained Assistance?

There were younger Children than his at that Time employed in the Parish; there was Work being done in the Parish by Children not better able to do that Work than his Children.

What Work was that?

That Work was Field Work, and Work about the Farm Houses.

At the Time when he applied for Relief was it not the Time of Frost?

It was.

Then they could not be employed in the Field?

My Informants, whom I saw there, all told me that at that Time they had Children in their Employment whose Age they stated to be less than that of Watts's elder Children.

Was there any Objection to Watts's Children being as much employed as they?

I know of none.

Are you aware of his having had any Opportunity of having his Children employed of which he neglected to avail himself?

I am not aware of any.

Supposing his Children employed, what Wages would they have received?

The eldest Girl is Thirteen Years of Age,—I speak of the elder ones; I saw a Girl less than Thirteen Years of Age who was receiving her entire Maintenance in a Farmer's House at the Time.

She was a hired Servant at the Time, perhaps?

I do not think she was a hired Servant; she was living on the Farm at the Time, and had been doing so for Two Years. In the same Place I saw a Boy who was earning 2*s.* a Week, in the Employ of the same Master.

Were you given to understand that Watts had applied for Relief only at the Suggestion of Mr. Kingston?

I think Watts made Two Applications for Relief. I believe I am correct in what I state. I do not say the First Application was made at the Suggestion of Mr. Kingston, but that one of the Applications was made at the Suggestion of Mr. Kingston; that on his First Application he received an Order to

go

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go into the Workhouse, but that he did not choose to go; that then he was persuaded by Mr. Kingston to try a Second Application, anticipating the same Offer of Relief in the Workhouse, and being prevailed upon by Mr. Kingston's Persuasions to avail himself of the Offer when it should be made.

You think it possible he might have got some Work for his Children at the Time he made his Application?

I think it possible, for I saw Children of similar Ages and Strength employed at the Time in the Way I have mentioned.

You still think those Children could have been employed in Field Work, even though it was a Time of Frost?

When I say Field Work, probably they were not then employed out in the Field, but by Farmers in Farm Work.

Supposing this Relief was refused to this Man, how do you think that would induce Mr. Kingston to give him more Wages?

I consider, and I am induced to do so, among other Considerations, by the Memorial sent up from this very Parish of Shalbourne, that the Expense of maintaining the Families in the Workhouse is one Objection which the Farmers entertain to the Regulation which enforces their being sent there; and I believe that, in order to avoid this Expense, they would find it to their Interest to make, in some Way or other, an Increase in the Earnings of the Man's Family.

Do you know, in point of fact, that any Increase has been made in consequence of the new Poor Law, and the Regulation with respect to the Admission to the Workhouse, to the Wages of that District?

I would not say that I know that the nominal Rate of Wages has been increased through the Operation of the Poor Law; but I am informed, almost wherever I go about that District, that the Earnings of the Families have been increased during the Operation of the Poor Law.

To what Extent? Is there any thing like a definite Extent of which you can give a Notion?

I am not prepared exactly to show what Proportion subsists between the Earnings of any Member of a Family, or of whole Families, before the passing of the Act and since.

You cannot say how far they appear to be sufficient for the Maintenance of those Families, perhaps?

I certainly am not prepared to say what precise Sum is sufficient for the Maintenance of a Family of any Size.

Are you prepared to say how far a certain Sum would be too little for the Maintenance of any Family?

I have often heard it asked in the Board Room, "Is not such a Sum manifestly insufficient for the Maintenance of a Family?" but I have always found Persons to whom I applied as most experienced in such Matters quite baffled when they attempted to show what was a sufficient Maintenance for a Family of any Size.

You have not really made any Estimate whatever?

I know of no Estimate on which I can rely.

Either as to its being sufficient, or the other Way of its being evidently too little?

I am inclined to say as I hear others say, when a very small Sum is stated, and a Man has a very large Family, that that is too little for such a Family to subsist on; but I should feel myself baffled, as I perceive other People to be, did I attempt to specify the Mode by which a Family subsist upon their Earnings.

With regard to those Children who were employed in a Farm House; did you inquire whether they were the Children of Labourers employed upon the same Farm?

I remember asking the Question, but I am not quite clear as to the Answer; but I believe your Lordships have summoned the very Person at whose House they were working, and can get the Information from him. It is Mr. Cundell.

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Have you ever known any Case where, an Order being given to a large Family to come into the Workhouse because their Earnings were not sufficient to support them, that has produced in some Way an Increase of Means to the Family, and they were able to maintain themselves out of the Workhouse?

I have had several such Cases stated to me. I should say, in almost every Union I have attended, I have heard of such Cases.

Have you attended the Farringdon Union?

I have.

Have you heard of such a Case there?

I have. A Case was reported to me, when I attended the Farringdon Union, by Mr. Dyke.

Was that a Case from Buscott?

It was.

Have the goodness to state the Case?

The Case, as well as I recollect it, was this: A Man in the Parish was reduced to the Necessity of applying for Relief, having a very large Family. I believe Mr. Dyke, who was an Occupier in the Parish, endeavoured to come to some Arrangement with other Occupiers in the Parish to relieve this Man, or rather, I should say, to improve his Condition, by giving Employment to One or Two of his Children. They refused to do so. The Man applied to the Board of Guardians, and got his Order for Admission into the Workhouse. When the Order was produced by the Man in the Parish, so that it was certain he had procured it, and from other Circumstances it appeared clear he would avail himself of it, the Farmers came to an Agreement to take certain of his Children into their Employment. Mr. Dyke, I think, was not, according to that Arrangement, to take the Children the first Year; but another Farmer in that Parish was to take them. The Necessity for the Man's going into the Workhouse consequently was done away, the Children being employed. At the Close of the Year, when the Farmer who was next to take the Children applied to their Employer for them, he refused to give them up. He said, No; he could employ them profitably; though he had been reluctant in the first Instance, he was ready to continue to employ the Children; that they did their Work satisfactorily, and he was willing to go on.

There is a small Difference between that Case and the Case of Isaac Watts, inasmuch as he went into the Workhouse?

Yes.

And remained until he came out on account of his Health?

I was not aware that Loss of Health was the Cause of his coming out. I stated that Case in consequence of its being suggested to me.

Watts obtained an Order, and did not obtain Work on showing the Order in the Parish, but went into the Workhouse, and remained there Sixteen Days, and no Employment was offered to his Children during that Time?

Of course I cannot undertake to say that giving an Order of Admission into the Workhouse would always produce this Effect; but I have met, certainly, with a sufficient Number of Cases to prove to me that it has a Tendency to that Result. If I might be allowed I would state, that it has occurred to me at the Board of Guardians to see Paupers ask for an Order for Admission into the Workhouse as a Means of obtaining Work in their own Parishes. I was once in Attendance at the Cirencester Union; a Pauper applied for "a Paper." "I want a Paper." The Guardians said, "What do you mean?" Then they began to ask him the usual Questions; whether he had used Diligence to get Employment, and to whom he had applied for it. He repeated his Request for "a Paper." The Guardians said, "We give no Recommendations; if you cannot get Work upon your own Character, we cannot help you." The Man still said, "I know you can give me a Paper that will get me Employ in my own Parish." They said, "Do you mean an Order for your Admission into the Workhouse?" and they gave him an Order. The Man went away, and never returned.

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The Time when Watts went into the Workhouse was the 24th of January; at that Season it was not so likely the Children would get Employment as in the Summer?
Certainly not.

If it had happened at this Season of the Year, it would have led more probably to their being employed than at a later Period?
I believe his Children are employed now.

Did you inquire of Mr. Kingston the Ground upon which he recommended Watts to go into the Workhouse, before you came to the Conclusion that he had recommended him to go in order to get the Labour done at a cheaper Rate?
No, I did not.

Are you aware that Mr. Kingston is a very considerable Rate-payer in the Parish, and the Expense of maintaining Watts and his Family while he was in the Workhouse would have fallen very heavily upon him?
I know he is a considerable Rate-payer.

Are you aware of the Amount?
I heard it stated, I think, that he pays 35*l.* to a Poor's Rate of 1*s.* in the Pound.

Do you know the Proportion of the whole Amount he pays?
No.

He stated to the Committee that he paid One Fifth of the Poor Rates of the Parish?
I was not aware of the Proportion.

Supposing that the Poor Law Commissioners had given the Guardians Permission to take Two of this Man's Children into the Workhouse, what evil Consequences do you suppose would have followed from that?
I think there would have been evil Consequences to several Parties. I think that to the Labourers themselves, the Fathers of Families, the Consequences of introducing that Mode of Relief would have been bad, inasmuch as it would obliterate the Line which I think it is most necessary to preserve, the Line of Distinction between independent Labourers and Paupers. I think that it clearly would have afforded a Pretext to the Employers to relax in the Endeavours they might have been disposed to make to find Work for the younger Branches of the Labourers Families; and it would certainly have operated to induce those Labourers who were not before very considerate of the Interests of their Families, and very moral Characters, to rely upon the Parish as being the best Mode of disposing of their Children. I am also inclined to think, that to the Children themselves it would have been ultimately no great Benefit, because it would have taken them away from their Parents and their Homes, and familiarized them with the Workhouse.

You say that one of the Evils you apprehend is, that it will destroy the Line between independent Labourers and Paupers, in the Minds of the Fathers of Families?
I think it would have that Effect.

What do you mean by the Expression, an independent Labourer?
I mean, by an independent Labourer, a Man who receives all that he does receive as the Reward of his own Exertions.

As Wages for Labour?
Yes.

What do you call a Man who receives Charity of any Kind towards the Maintenance of his Family?
To that Extent he is not independent.

Does not it depend upon the Source from whence he receives his Charity; if he were to be assisted by his Employer, you would not consider that that made him a Pauper?
I consider that that involves no Disgrace. I attach the Disgrace to the Term Pauper.

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You confine it to Relief received from the Board of Guardians?
Certainly.

You mean to say that your Distinction between the independent Labourer and the Pauper consists in his having received Parish Relief or not?
Yes; I should say so.

You do not mean a Labourer who maintains his Family by means of Assistance from other Persons independent of any Work he may have done?
I consider that, to a certain Extent, that Man differs from an independent Man.

Supposing a Man not to be able to maintain his Family by any Exertions of his own, however industrious he may be, and equally unable to obtain sufficient Relief by Charity, do you object still to the Parish giving that Man Relief?
I know that the Parish is bound to give that Man Relief.

Only by Admission to the Workhouse?
I believe that, looking to the Administration of Relief on the whole, it is better for the labouring Classes that Relief should be restricted to that Shape in such Cases.

You believe that, as applied to the general Body of Paupers, that is so, but that Cases of great Hardship do occur to individual able-bodied Paupers?
I believe, of course, that there will be Cases of Hardship. I know that the Size of a Man's Family must affect his Comfort and his Means of living, almost in any Line of Life, and in the lower Classes of Society most sensibly. I know that in the Rank of a Labourer the Difference of Circumstances arising from the Difference of Family as to Number is much greater than in the higher Classes, therefore I cannot suppose that such a Rule as I am now advocating can be enforced without creating, in some Instances, a Degree of Hardship in its Application to the Class of Labourers; but I believe upon the whole the Application of that Rule will be more beneficial to them than a different Practice would be.

Do you believe it is possible that Discretion should be given in that respect without running a serious Risk of endangering the Effect of which you have spoken?
I think the Risk would be very great of endangering the Effect, if unlimited Discretion were vested in Boards of Guardians, to give that Description of Relief to the Class of Labourers.

Do you think it impossible that a Discretion might be left to Guardians, under certain Limits and under certain Responsibilities, which would enable them to give Relief out of Doors to Persons under the Circumstances of Isaac Watts without producing the evil Effects you have stated?
I confess I should think it a most difficult Task if I were required to define the Limits by which such a Discretion should be restricted. From what I know of Boards of Guardians and the very peculiar Situation in which they are placed, especially elected Guardians, I conceive that the Weight of Responsibility upon them would be too great for them to bear, and that they would find the Task of discriminating between Cases too difficult for them to perform, without such definite Regulations as I should feel myself quite unable to frame.

Suppose that one of the Limitations was that no one should receive Relief out of Doors unless he had a Family of a certain Size?
I should apprehend such a Limitation as that would still leave uncertain the whole Amount of the Man's Means; because a Family of a certain Size, in one Place or under one Set of Circumstances, may not be nearly so burdensome as a Family of a smaller Size, in another Place or under other Circumstances.

The Question does not allude to the Rule requiring the Guardians to give Relief in every such Case; but suppose a Discretion left in the Guardians to give Relief to a Family of a certain Size, the Number of the Family being defined?
I understood the Question to refer only to enabling the Guardians to give Relief,

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Relief, not to compelling them; I think the same Sort of Difficulty which would probably prevent the compelling the Guardians to give Relief in such Cases would operate upon the Minds of the Guardians when it was left to their Discretion in what Cases to give Relief, and in what Cases to withhold it. I think the Difficulty is this: that you hardly can at any one Time fairly estimate all the Circumstances that may affect a vast Variety of Cases, and I consider that a Board of Guardians would feel, in the Routine of the Administration of Relief, that Difficulty to be so exceedingly great that they would endeavour to escape from it, by laying down some Rule for their own Guidance; and in fact, if they did so, they would be doing that which the Legislature by leaving them to act on their Discretion and by refraining from laying down a Rule, professed itself unable to do.

Suppose that Discretion were again checked by a necessary Reference to an Assistant Commissioner in the first instance, and ultimately to the Poor Law Commissioners; do you think there would be much Danger of a serious Inconvenience arising in such a Case?

As the Law is at present, the Guardians are at Liberty, in particular Cases, to infringe the Regulations of the Commissioners, in giving Relief, making a Report of such Infraction within a certain Time; and if the Commissioners approve such Infraction, the Relief so given and reported is allowed. It appears to me that that Proviso is sufficient to meet the Cases that arise in the Transaction of the Business of Unions.

You refer merely to a few Days?

There are Two Provisoes; I refer to the Second. The First Proviso relates to the general setting aside of Regulations; the Second Proviso is, "in case the Overseers or Guardians of any Parish or Union in which such Orders or Regulations shall be in force shall depart from them or any of them in any particular Instance or Instances of Emergency, and shall within Fifteen Days after every such Departure report the same and the Grounds thereof to the said Commissioners, and the said Commissioners shall approve of such Departure," and so on. That is the Close of the Fifty-second Clause.

This gives a Power to Guardians and Overseers to represent particular Instances of Emergency. Could the Case of a Man with an overgrown Family be called a Case of Emergency?

I should consider that it could not.

Are you not aware that there have been Instances of that Kind referred to the Poor Law Commissioners, under very peculiar Circumstances, in which they have granted an Order for the Children to be admitted into the Workhouse?

I believe there have.

Have there been any in your District?

There have been One or Two in my District. Perhaps if I were to describe the Cases, that would indicate the Idea of the Commissioners as to what the Intention of the Act was. I think there have been Three Cases in my District of able-bodied Paupers whose Wives have died either in Childbirth, or soon after the Birth of a Child. In those Cases the Guardians have either removed the Child into the Workhouse, or placed a Nurse in the Family of the Man, though he was an able-bodied Pauper and in Employment; and they have reported those Cases to the Poor Law Commissioners, who immediately sanctioned such Relief.

That would be more like the Case of an able-bodied Man being chargeable in consequence of Sickness in his Family, a Part of his Family being in a State in which it would require Relief from its actual State, and not from the Man being overburdened?

Certainly.

It is more in the Nature of Relief given, where it is necessary to give greater Support, on account of Illness?

The Cases were all similar to that I have described, the Wife in each Case having died either in Childbirth or soon after. There was a Case of a very large Family where the Wife was incapacitated, by Stiffness in the Wrist, from

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contributing what she otherwise would to the Support of her Family. The Commissioners pointed out to the Board of Guardians that they could give Relief to the Woman. I should state that in my District there has been no Case made an Exception solely on the Ground of the large Size of the Family and Inability to maintain them.

Under those Circumstances would it not be possible to devise Means, in the first place, by laying down a Rule with respect to the Size of the Family that should entitle a Person to ask for Relief, giving only a Discretion to the Guardians to give Relief in such Cases until they had reported it to the Assistant Commissioner, and until it shall have been reported by him to the Commissioners in London; do you think the giving Relief in such Cases would have the Effect you have spoken of?

If it were merely to give Guardians the Power to infringe the Regulations, upon making an Application, that is a Power they now have; they may infringe the Regulation in case of large Families at their Discretion; but they must get the Sanction of the Poor Law Commissioners to such Infraction. Such a Power as is now alluded to would hardly be a Direction to the Poor Law Commissioners, but only point them out more clearly as the Parties who were to deny Relief in individual Cases, or to grant it at their sole Discretion, instead of acting as they do now by general Rule.

Supposing such a Permission inserted in the Act of Parliament, would it not be taken by the Board of Guardians as an Indication of the Legislature's Intention, that they should take those Cases into their Consideration, and not refuse them as a general Rule?

No Doubt it would.

Would not the Size of the Family be a perfectly fallacious Test; may not a Family of Three or Four weak in Health or weak in Mind afford Circumstances under which Relief was even more necessary than where there were Seven or Eight all able to work?

I conceive that Test would be perfectly fallacious.

In the Circumstances mentioned is there not a Discretion now in the Guardians?

In Cases of Sickness.

Or Inability to work?

Physical Inability.

May they not be sickly without being afflicted with a Disease which would justify the Guardians in interfering?

They may be sickly or puny Children; but I should remark also, that there are Circumstances extraneous to a Family which would render the Number of the Family no Rule to go by. In some Places large Families may be maintained more cheaply than in other Places.

Would not those be Circumstances for the Guardians to take into their Consideration when they were making up their Mind upon the Case?

Yes, certainly; but I think that if there were any precise Number of Children mentioned in the Act of Parliament, they would take that to be a pretty plain Intimation (I do not mean to say that they would be right) that it was intended that Relief should ordinarily be allowed when the Family exceeded the Number mentioned.

Supposing the Check to exist of the Assistant Poor Law Commissioner, and the Poor Law Commissioners, would not that be corrected?

Then I think that we should come to pretty much the Situation we are now in; that it would rest with the Poor Law Commissioners to say whether Relief should be granted in particular Cases. The legislative Enactment being introduced might be held a clear Intimation to the Poor Law Commissioners, and so might take effect; but I think, excepting in that Way, it would only have the Effect of multiplying the Number of Cases referred back to them as Cases of Exception from the Rule, and imposing upon them the Necessity of coming to Decisions on so many individual Cases.

Would

Would that Rule have the Effect of increasing the Discontent at Refusals?
I think it is possible for it to have that Effect to a very considerable Degree.

Supposing the Enactment proposed by the Question to take effect, would not the only Effect of it be that it would give an additional Restraint to the Poor Law Commissioners in conferring Relief, and not give them any fresh Power to grant Relief; they now having an unlimited Power to say in what Circumstances Relief shall be given to able-bodied Men; the proposed Enactment being, that it might be declared, that unless a Man had above a certain Number of Children they must not relieve him at all?
Certainly.

Then the Effect would be rather to restrain than enlarge their Power?
Yes.

How is it the Boards of Guardians do not give Out-door Relief?
Because an Order and Regulation was issued to them from the Poor Law Commissioners, declaring to what Class of Persons the Relief shall be restricted to Relief in the Workhouse.

There is a peremptory Order that no Relief shall be given to Out-door Paupers?
Yes.

Of which, in Practice, there is no Relaxation?
Of which, in Practice, the only Relaxation is in the Instances of those excepted Cases.

You cannot adduce an Instance of an excepted Case where Relief has been given only on account of the Number of the Family, or any except where there have been peculiar Circumstances affecting the Family?
No; not any in my District.

Are you aware of any in any other District?
I think there have been in some other Districts.

To Men merely on account of the Size of their Family?
Perhaps; I can hardly say merely on account of the Size of the Family.

On account of the Size of the Family and the Inability to maintain them?
From what I know of the Practice in other Districts there have been such Cases; but there the Exception has been where there was a large Family to support, with some other Circumstances, which made it peculiarly difficult to maintain the Family,—a severe Snow Storm or a long Frost.

In point of fact the Power of the Commissioners to grant Relief, and relax the Rigidness of the Rule, has never been exerted in a Case similar to that of Isaac Watts?
I cannot state that; I am not sufficiently conversant with the Practice of other Districts to do so; I can merely state that in my District it has not.

Therefore it is considered an universal Rule in the Operation of this Act, that no one shall receive any Relief, except in the Workhouse, on account of his Inability to maintain his Family?
No able-bodied Man.

In the Relaxation suggested as to large Families, would there not be considerable Difficulty presented by the Condition of the Family as to what would be accounted able-bodied Labourers; would the Class who earn a little more, Wheelers and Tailors for instance, be included; and if it would be fair to include them, would it be fair to take Sawyers and Carpenters, and those who earn a little more, and then go to the Bricklayers, who earn a little more still?
Supposing such a Regulation adopted, it would be exceedingly difficult to draw any Line. I conceive, myself, that the Effect would be that some Rule would be framed by the Board of Guardians analogous to the old Bread Tables, which we found so frequently in the different Parishes when we first visited them.

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What would the Occupation of a Man have to do with his being relieved by the Means referred to till he is able to maintain his Family on the Wages he earns?

The Amount of his Wages must be taken into consideration.

It would not signify whether the Man was a Labourer, or a Carpenter, or a Butcher, or what he was?

Certainly not.

You state that no Relief has been given to able-bodied Labourers in the District to which you belong, except in those excepted Cases you have stated, on account of the Death of the Wife, or the Incapacity of the Wife?

I believe that is the Case; restricting my Answer to those Unions in which that Regulation is in force.

The Act gives the Power to Guardians, in Cases of urgent Necessity, to give Out-door Relief in case of the Incapacity or Inability of the Father to support his Family. Supposing during the great Severity of the Winter there were a great many Labourers who are totally deprived of the Means of Labour, should you not consider that a Case of urgent Necessity, when a Man was deprived by any Visitation of the Almighty of the Means of acquiring Support, or by any Circumstances of that Kind?

Supposing a Man were always to live from Week to Week upon what he earned that Week, I think the Case suggested would apply.

Supposing a Man, having a Wife, himself, and Twelve Children, could not support his Family entirely by his Earnings, and he were to say if Two or Three were taken off my Hands I could support the rest, should you not think that was a Case which called for an Extension of Relief to that Man?

I think it would depend very much upon the Age and Sex of those Children; I think it would depend a good deal upon the Man's previous Circumstances, upon the previous average Amount of the Earnings of himself and his Family; I think it would depend a good deal upon the Situation in which the Individual was. As to Locality; in some Places there are Facilities of getting Employment which do not exist in others. There is such a Variety of Circumstances to be taken into consideration it is utterly impossible to give a precise Answer.

Each Case must of course stand upon its own individual Merit, and no general Rule can apply; but if the Earnings of that Man were taken into consideration during the Six Months previous, or the Twelve Months previous, and it were found to have been impossible for that Man to have laid by any thing, supposing he was thrown out of Employment, either by Sickness or Labour being taken from him, would not that be considered a Case of urgent Necessity?

I am inclined to think that were I to advise upon such a Case, I should consider it better upon the whole to adhere to the Rule, though the Man were obliged to submit to the temporary Restraint of the Workhouse, than violate the Rule and the Principle.

Do not you think under those Circumstances it would be a great Hardship towards that Man, to compel a Man who had constantly brought up his Family and struggled with great Difficulties to bring the whole of his Family into the Workhouse, taking him from his House where he had brought them up many Years previous?

I do not myself think that the Condition of the People in the Workhouses is so bad as to make a temporary Residence within it so dreadful a Thing as is sometimes imagined. I think that a Residence in the Workhouse on the whole should very properly be made more disagreeable than residing under ordinary Circumstances out of the Workhouse.

Do you think that if a Man went into the Workhouse there would be the slightest Probability of his ever getting out of it, supposing he had given up his Cottage and disposed of his Furniture?

I know, from a pretty extended Experience, that where Paupers have gone into the Workhouse they have not remained. Therefore, I conclude that the Difficulty of reinstating themselves again, when they have been compelled to go in for a short Period, is not so great as it might be imagined.

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In the Union Workhouses which have come under your Superintendence, is there any Means of Employment used, except that which may fairly be considered as Labour; is there any thing like carrying Sand Bags, which may not be considered as Labour, but as Punishment?
There has been nothing of the Kind in any Workhouse in my District.

Is there any thing used in any of your Union Workhouses called a Mendicity List?
I know of no List called a Mendicity List; but in Two of those Unions they have given Relief to Mendicants in the Workhouse. Those are the Windsor and Reading Unions. In the former they have just completed their Arrangement for that Purpose; at Reading they have done it for some Time.

They are treated in the same Manner?
Yes.

Have not they a separate Place, of a different Nature?
They are separated from the other Inmates, but their Treatment is precisely that of the other Inmates.

Is not their Accommodation in the Workhouse different?
I think it is the same.

You had some Conversation with Isaac Watts?
I had.

Did he intimate to you any Intention or Wish that any of his Children should go into the Workhouse?
On the contrary. I asked him whether this Application for Relief was from his Wish to have Part of his Family go into the Workhouse; he said it was not.

Did he say that if that Liberty were given him he would accede to it?
He said he would not.

That he would rather go on in his present Way than send Part of his Children into the Workhouse?
Yes.

Do you think there was on his Part an Unwillingness to part with his Children?
I should think there was.

Therefore he did not show great Desire to receive Relief upon those Terms?
No. I think that with any well-thinking Man there would be a Repugnance to receive Relief upon those Terms.

Supposing he Guardians were permitted to take those Children into the Workhouse, would not that Feeling tend to prevent the Applications of Labourers for Relief upon those Terms?
Yes, where there is that Feeling; but there is a large Class of Labourers where that Feeling is not so strong, and that is one of the Objections I should urge to that Regulation, that it would be taken advantage of chiefly by those in respect of whom there could be no Wish to relax the Stringency of the Rule.

Would not a Discretion on the Part of the Guardians obviate that in a great Measure?
It would open one of the most difficult Subjects to the Consideration of the Guardians; namely, a Judgment of the Merits of the Persons whom they are called upon to relieve.

You say there are certain Unions in which that Rule has not Effect at this Moment?
Yes.

Do they relieve the Case of able-bodied Persons out of the Workhouse?
Within my District they have relieved very few indeed this Winter. I believe that the Cases of Relief out of the Workhouse, in Unions where that

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Rule has been in force, may be restricted to almost One Union; I mean that there is only One Union, in my District, where any considerable Amount of Out-door Relief has been given to able-bodied Male Paupers, and that was only under very peculiar Circumstances, which were reported to me on a Visit I made to the Board of Guardians by the Chairman of the Union. I speak of the Chipping Norton Union.

In your Unions have you had frequent Occasion to remark any very great Discretion on the Part of the Guardians, or any very great Desire to give Relief, except in Cases of great Emergency?
I have not.

Are you in general convinced that the Rule prohibiting Out-door Relief is a salutary one?
I am. In unusually difficult Cases the Guardians find the Responsibility increase beyond what they can bear; and in such Cases without the Rule they can adhere to their Principle with greater Difficulty and with rather less Consistency.

Have you found that the Departures from the rigid Rule in those Unions have produced any of the evil Effects which you have stated as likely to arise?
I certainly did in the one Instance to which I have alluded. The Circumstances of the Case were reported to me by the Chairman of the Union, by way of Explanation of the Order the Guardians had made. I attended at Chipping Norton without knowing that any thing unusual had taken place, and I found the Entrance Hall of the Workhouse full of able-bodied Men. When I entered into the Board Room I expressed my Surprise, the Men I saw assembled being all more or less able-bodied Applicants for Relief, and more in Number than I had seen during the whole Winter at all the Unions I had visited. I was told that a Fortnight previous there had been a Misunderstanding and Quarrel among the Farmers in one of the Parishes in the Union, and that the Result of this Quarrel was that they discharged all the Labourers they could spare. The Men applied to the Board of Guardians for Relief; their Number was so great and the Circumstances of the Case were thought so peculiar, it being well known what was the Reason of their being thrown out of Work, that the Board of Guardians, unrestricted by any Rule, gave those Men Out-door Relief; the Consequence of that was, as I was assured by the Guardians, that on the following Board Day they had to learn that Two or Three other Parishes had followed precisely the same Course that they had argued; "You see turning the Men off does not involve them in any Necessity of going to the Workhouse; they get Out-door Relief as they used;" and therefore the Men were discharged. The Third Board Day was the Day I went there. On that Day I found that the Number had more than doubled. I think there must have been between Ninety and a Hundred Men assembled. That was the Explanation given me. The Guardians then were one and all sensible that what they had done had been unfortunate, and wished to retrace their Steps in the best Way they could. I dissuaded them from at once cutting off the Out Relief ordered to those Men, and giving them Admission into the Workhouse, but said that they must gradually retrace their Steps as quickly as they could; and in Three Weeks they brought the Relief List to the State in which it had been previously.

That was not a Case of any Emergency, arising in any One Family, from any Cause whatever; but a Case affecting generally the Body of Labourers?
Certainly; in one Parish.

Therefore it is quite clear, in your Opinion, and probably that of every one, that that Discretion was exceedingly imprudently exercised?
I should have advised a different Course; I should have ventured to predict exactly what did occur, that their giving Relief in one particular Parish would bring on them other Cases from other Parishes.

That cannot be compared to the Case of one particular Family, suffering a Want of Food from the Want of the Means of Employment?
No; I stated that as an Exception from the general Practice of those Unions which are bound by no particular Rule.

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Do you know any particular Union where the same Result has been the Effect of having given Relief in such Cases of Family Emergency as would not justify it, supposing they had the Permission to give Relief to an able Out-door Pauper?

Within my District I do not think I can charge any Board of Guardians with that.

You have stated that you visited Watts and some other Labourers; did you visit any who had a Family equally numerous?

No, I did not.

Did you visit any large Family in extreme Distress in which the two eldest were young Girls?

I asked particularly for Information with reference to that Sentence in the Memorial, and I certainly could not discover the particular Families to which they alluded. Mr. Kingston named one or two Men, and he went with me to the Cottages of one or two. I requested him to take me to those that were in the worst Condition.

Did you in any Case find them willing to accept that Relief prayed in the Memorial if it was offered to them?

I did not put the Question to them; only to Watts.

In case there was any Man in great Distress, an able-bodied Labourer, would not the Board of Guardians, if they thought that the Man was only in temporary Distress, and a Man of good Character, have the Power to lend him a Sum of Money, to be attached out of his Wages when he was again employed?

I believe that Clause is differently read by different Persons; but I conceive the Law to be, that the Clause in the Act enables the Guardians to give any Relief that the Case requires by way of Loan. I do not believe that it enables them to make a Loan in a Case where they could not legally give Relief.

Is there not a Clause in Mr. Sturges Bourne's Act enabling them to give that Relief?

Yes.

Is not One of the Evils which must arise from giving Boards of Guardians general Discretion, that the Labourers in whose Favour that Discretion is not given are too apt to think that the other Labourers got it through Favouritism?

There is do Doubt of that.

Is not there Danger, that if a Labourer in the Parish of A. does not succeed where the Board has a Discretion, he will be dissatisfied if a Labourer in the Parish of B. has had it given to him?

Undoubtedly.

Do not you think that of itself is a serious Objection to giving Boards of Guardians greater Discretion than they have now?

I consider certainly that the Inconvenience suggested is so likely to result from giving them greater Discretion, that it strengthens my Objection against it.

If a Board of Guardians had the Power of making Exceptions to a general Rule, would not the making of every one of those Exceptions lead to much Discussion?

There is no Doubt of that.

You say there is a Power under the Act of Parliament to lend Money to able-bodied Men?

There is a Power in the Guardians acting under the Direction of the Commissioners to declare any Relief to be given by Way of Loan.

Supposing a Loan is made to a Man in Isaac Watts's Situation, is there any Chance of its ever being repaid?

I should think a very bad one.

Then if that Money was lent to him you would consider it an Evasion of the Rule?

Certainly.

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You can attach the Wages?
Yes; there is a Power to do so.

Bearing in mind that in most Unions the Guardians are themselves Employers of Labourers, would not the Exercise of a Discretion lead to a great deal of Partiality?
I think it would undoubtedly.

Supposing it did not lead to Partiality, and that the Guardians did their Duty, would not almost all their Decisions be considered by the Labourers in the Parishes who were refused to be in consequence of Partiality?
I think so.

Would there not be a great Difference in the Decisions, varying from Time to Time, according to the Guardians who were present?
Certainly.

Do you not consider that it would lead to improvident Marriages if the Labourers Children were taken off their Hands in that Way?
No Doubt that would remove much of the Necessity for Consideration beforehand.

Do you think that a Man would make an improvident Marriage because his Seventh Child might be provided for by the Parish?
I think he would be less considerate than a Man would be likely to be if he knew none of them would be provided for.

Do you think that when a Man marries, the Knowledge that he may apply for Relief to be given to him, at the Discretion of a Board of Guardians, for his Seventh or Tenth Child would have any Effect upon him?
When a Man was about to marry whether it would have the Effect of preventing his Marriage I doubt; but I do think the Prospect, however remote, of any Parochial Assistance in bringing up a Family would remove from the Mind of the Labourer what would otherwise be an Obstacle in the Way of his marrying.

Would not the giving Parochial Relief in certain Cases hold out to him an Expectation, that a State of Things might arise in which when he was in Difficulty he might receive the same Relief, and might not that tend to decrease his Providence?
I think it might.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned till To-morrow, Twelve o'Clock.

Die Veneris, 11° *Maii* 1838.

The Lord WHARNCLIFFE in the Chair.

Evidence on the Operation of the Poor Law Amendment Act.

The Lord in the Chair reads the following Depositions received from the Coroner for the County of Lincoln; referred by the House to this Committee; viz:

"Lincolnshire, Kesteven, to wit.

"Informations of Witnesses taken this Eighteenth Day of November One thousand eight hundred and thirty-seven, in the Parish of Toft, at the Dwelling House of Joseph Faulkner, the Sign of the Butchers Arms, before Samuel Edwards, Gentleman, One of Her Majesty's Coroners for the said County, touching the Death of Edward Marvin, then and there lying dead, as follows:

"Joseph Faulkner sworn. Yesterday Morning, soon after Eight o'Clock, I was going on the Road between Toft and Thurlby, and when I got a Quarter of a Mile beyond the Toll Bar I saw a Man lying in a dry Ditch on the Right Side of the Road. I went to him; he was quite dead, stiff, and cold; his Clothes were covered with Rhyme; it was a Rhyme Frost; he lay on his Back; all Clothes on; no Stick near him; he had a Coat, Waistcoat, Trowsers, Half Boots on, Shirt and Hat. I alarmed Mr. Nicholl's Shepherd, John Berry, and he went with me to examine Deceased. We got the Body to my House, and examined his Pockets; nothing found but a short Tobacco Pipe; his Hands were bloody; a little Blood near Nose; Eyes open; Mouth open. The Feetings of Two Persons were near Deceased, apparently those of a Man and Boy, and they appeared to have gone from the Road to the Ditch Side, and then back to the Road. I did not know who it was I found dead. Mr. Munton the Surgeon was sent for, and he came.

(Signed) "Joseph Faulkner."

"George Octavius Munton sworn. I attended at Toft Yesterday, having been sent for by the Hamlet of Toft. The Body of a Man was lying at the Public House at Toft, quite dead, his Clothes on. I examined his Head and Hands Yesterday; no Marks of Violence appeared on the Head or Hands. I have examined the whole of his Person To-day externally. I find no Bruises or Marks of Violence on any Part of him, except some slight Scratches on the Backs of his Hands; the Body a good deal emaciated. I could not detect if he had been under the Influence of Liquor. I saw the Body Yesterday, about Half past Ten, and I think he must have been dead Six or Eight Hours. I believe the Body to be that of Edward Marvin. He was much addicted to drinking to Excess, which brought on occasional Aberrations of Mind. I cannot account for the Cause of his Death, unless it was by being exposed to the Frost the greater Part of the Night.

(Signed) "George Octavius Munton."

"John Berry sworn. Confirms the Evidence of Faulkner."

"Hannah Marvin sworn. I am the Wife of Deceased. I have seen his dead Body Yesterday. He left Home last Monday Morning from Morton; he said he was going to Witham, to General Johnson's; he was a Chelsea Pensioner, $5\frac{1}{2}d.$ a Day; he was about Forty Years old; he was by Trade a Carpenter, but was not in his Mind. We have not received Relief from

the Union; he has One Child in the Union; no Child now at Home. He had no Money or Watch in his Pocket when he left Home; he received his Pension last 29th October, or 30th, Bourn Fair; he did not lay out at Nights generally.

(Signed) " HANNAH her ⋈ Mark. MARVIN."

" I certify the above, and what is written in the preceding Sheet of Paper, to be a Copy of the Informations of Witnesses taken before me at the Inquest held by me on the Body of Edward Marvin. Dated this 10th May 1838.

(Signed) " SAMUEL EDWARDS,
" One of the Coroners for the County of Lincoln."

Rev. D. Williams.

The Reverend DAVID WILLIAMS is called in, and examined as follows:

YOU are the Curate of Shalbourne, in the County of Berks, are you not?
I am.

How long have you been Curate?
Something more than Seven Years.

Do you know a labouring Man in the Parish of the Name of Isaac Watts?
Yes, very well.

Did you sign a Letter to the Commissioners of the Poor Law upon the Subject of taking Two of the Man's Family into the Workhouse?
I did.

Two Girls?
Yes.

What was the Date of that Letter?
It was, I think, in February.

Was it during the Frost?
It was.

Do you know whether that Man had previously to that Time applied for Relief to the Board of Guardians?
No, I do not know that he had; I do not know whether he had or had not.

Did you make any Inquiry on the Subject?
I apprehend he had not, because they always refuse those Cases.

What were the Circumstances of that Man's Case which induced you to make the Application to the Poor Law Commissioners?
Because I thought it would be a Relief to the poor Man to send Part of his Family into the Workhouse. I ought to say that the First Copy of the Petition which was submitted to me specified that Two of the Children might be admitted into the Workhouse for Three or Four Months during the bad Weather, and I inadvertently signed the Second Copy, thinking that that was specified in the Second; but I am not clear, at the same Time, whether I should not upon Deliberation have signed the Second as it is; but I think it should have been specified, because it would have been more attended to, I think, if the Time had been specified, — for instance Three or Four Months.

Had you personally inquired into the Circumstances of this Man before you signed that Memorial?
Certainly; I had often relieved them from my own private Purse.

Will you state what Sort of a Man he is, and what were the Circumstances of his Case which rendered him an Object of Compassion?
His Health is very indifferent, and also his Wife's Health is very indifferent; he has been a Burden upon the Parish because of his Health, and they are a Family in great Distress.

Do you mean to say that he is not an able-bodied Labourer?
I do not mean to say that he is not able-bodied, but he is not a Man in good Health; his general Health is but indifferent.

Is he a Man willing to work to the utmost of his Ability?
I think so; I never heard any thing to the contrary.

With regard to his Wife, what Sort of a Woman is she?
A very well-behaved Woman; I never understood otherwise.

Is she a pains-taking Wife?
She is rather a Croaker, and in the habit of complaining perhaps.

Is she in the habit of keeping her Cottage clean?
Yes; I have been in the Cottage several Times.

And in the habit of attending to the Cleanliness of her Children?
Yes; I think so.

Did you ever hear of her being a bad Manager, and wasting the Resources which they have?
No, never.

What are the Man's Wages?
8*s*. a Week.

Did you inquire how far it was possible for any of the rest of the Family to obtain any thing in addition?
In the Winter Months they are entirely deprived of the Means of assisting their Parents, but in the Summer Months they are not. I took an Opportunity of inquiring fully into the Case, and I saw the Two eldest Girls themselves at work; they earn now about 2*s*. a Week.

Do you mean that they earn 2*s*. each?
Yes; that is, about 2*s*. each; they are employed in collecting Stones; it depends upon the Quantity of Stones they gather.

Are they employed in collecting Stones by the Surveyor of the Highways?
No, by the Farmers in the Fields.

He pays them by the Bushel for that?
Yes.

How long ago is it since you saw them so employed?
On Tuesday last.

Did you ask them how long they had been so employed?
I think the Girl said Two or Three Weeks.

Are 8*s*. a Week the usual Wages of the Parish?
Yes, and of the whole Neighbourhood, I believe.

Is it the same with respect to married and single Persons?
I am afraid that the Farmers in all Places would employ Men at 5*s*. very frequently, if they offered. I believe the Guardian of the Parish told you so; at least he told Mr. Hall that if a Man offered to work for 5*s*. a Week he would give him 5*s*. and no more; and it is sometimes the Case, I believe, that Men are so pushed that they will take so little as 5*s*. a Week, and the Farmers employ them so low; but it is also an Act of Charity on the Part of the Farmer to employ them at all, when he does not want them.

Are 8*s*. a Week the full Wages?
Yes; the best Wages in the Parish.

Those Wages are not usually given to single Men?
Yes, I believe they are; but Farmers occasionally, I think, take advantage where a Man is eager for Work, and cannot get Work anywhere else; they employ him when he has offered to take 5*s*. a Week.

Does that happen with the married as well as the unmarried Labourers?
It is impossible for me to say; I should think not.

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Are these Children employed by Mr. Kearsey?
Yes.

When you speak of single Men what Age do you refer to?
No particular Age; a grown Man I should say.

This Man, Isaac Watts, had been employed by Mr. Kingston a good deal, had he not?
He is a constant Labourer of his.

Did it appear to you that Mr. Kingston and the Man were upon those Sort of Terms that an Employer is with a Labourer that he has a good Opinion of?
Yes; I never understood that he found any Fault with the Man; he may not do what is commonly called so good a Day's Work as the rest of the Labourers, on account of his Inability; that may be the Case; I am not sure that that is the Case.

From your Knowledge of Mr. Kingston, is he a Person that would be likely to deal hardly with his Labourers?
I can only say that he mentioned to Mr. Hall that if a Labourer offered at a lower Price he would take him. I do not mean to say that he is a bad Master; I think Mr. Kingston quite as good a Master as any other Farmer, but that is a common Case; I think that all Farmers everywhere employ Labourers in pretty much the same Way, that is, take them at low Wages if they offer. I should observe, that I am far from blaming the Farmers for employing a Man at *5s.* a Week; it is often an Act of Charity, when they do not want them; Farmers would much rather pay *8s.* if they could afford it; I only regret the State of Things that compels them to give low Wages.

You saw the Two Children at work on Tuesday?
Yes; I went to inquire about a poor Man that was ill in the Parish, and I saw the Two Girls in the Field.

Did you perceive that there were plenty of Stones for them to pick?
I did not notice that.

Did you hear from them that they were to go on working?
No; they did not say any thing about that.

Do you know that they are still employed by Mr. Kearsey?
The Girls told me on Tuesday last that they were employed by Mr. Kearsey.

Are you quite sure that it was Mr. Kearsey who was employing those Girls?
They were in Mr. Kearsey's Field, and I asked, "Who employs you?" and they said Mr. Kearsey. They were not then in Employment. The Girl ran along beside me for some Time, and I put some Questions to her about the Workhouse.

Are they a weak Family?
No; this is a strong sharp Girl, about Thirteen and a Half Years of Age.

She is stated to be Thirteen?
I should say that she was more than Thirteen; from her Size I should suppose she was Fourteen or Fifteen.

In a Letter from Mr. Rowland to the Poor Law Commissioners, giving an Account of the Family, she is stated to be Thirteen?
They are not always able to give a correct Account of their Ages; I have known them differ in their own Account. I am almost positive she said Fifteen.

What is the Age of the next?
Eleven. There was that Difference between the Size of the Two Girls that any one would say that there was more than Two Years Difference in their Ages.

Do you know the other Children?
Yes; I have seen them all.

Are

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Are they a small sized Family?
The little ones are small, and have not the Appearance of being strong.

Are the Man and his Wife small?
No; the Woman is large. I have never been able to see the Man, though I have called many Times at the House; he has always been absent at his Work; but the Woman I know very well.

Do you know the Man?
I think I know him, but I do not remember him by his Name; I know every Man in my Parish, but I cannot remember him at this Moment.

From your Knowledge of what this Man receives, and the Size of his Family, do you think that his is a Case of Compassion, as not being able to maintain his Family?
Yes; but I think that his is no more than the Case of many other Men; a little Allowance ought perhaps to be made for the ill Health of himself and his Wife, but with that Exception I make no particular Distinction between his Case and another Man's Case of the same Family.

Your Reason for thinking that he ought to be the Subject of Relief was that he had a large Family?
Yes.

And the Difficulty of maintaining that Family upon the Wages he received?
Nothing more than that.

Have you many Labourers in your Parish that have a Family as large as that?
There are Two besides; there is one of the Name of Townsend, and another of the Name of Knight.

Do you know any thing of their Circumstances?
Yes; they are pretty much in the same Situation, I think; the Children of this Man Knight, whom I saw on Tuesday, looked healthier and stronger.

What Sort of Character is Knight?
The Farmers could better speak to the Character of this Man. The Parish is long, a very long straggling Parish, and he goes to another Church, Tipcomb, so that I do not see so much of that Family as of Watts's.

Where does Townsend live?
He is in the same Neighbourhood, still further from me; I know the Man Townsend.

Have you had any particular Proof of the Distress to which that Family of Townsend have been driven lately?
No other Distress than that they were obliged to support a large Family upon 8*s.* a Week.

You do not know of any particular Circumstance having occurred to that Family which makes you suppose that they are more distressed than other People in that Situation?
No, not at all.

Do you know that his Wages were only 8*s.* a Week?
Yes; those are the general Wages of the Parish.

We have been told 9*s.*?
The Wiltshire Side is a little lower in the Wages than the Berkshire Side; I have understood the Farmers to say so.

You do not know of any particular Circumstance with regard to that Family which should induce you to suppose that they have been reduced to very great Distress?
Nothing in the World, but they are reduced to the Necessity of supporting a numerous Family upon small Wages.

You do not personally know much about either of these Men, Townsend or Knight?
No, nothing more than that that Man Knight was in the Workhouse.

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Are you aware that this Man, Isaac Watts, has been also in the Workhouse?
Yes.

Are you one of the Guardians of the Union?
No, I am not.

Have Allotments of Land to Cottages been introduced into that Part of the Country?
Yes.

Watts has an Allotment, has he not?
Yes, no Doubt he has.

Do you know his Allotment?
I have not the least Doubt that he has the same as the others.

Do you know the Ground?
Yes.

Is it very good Ground?
Yes; it is a very good Aspect, and good Soil.

How long has it been the Habit in Shalbourne to give Allotments to the Labourers?
Since I came there, about Five Years ago.

Before the passing of the Act?
About Five Years ago it was introduced.

Was it introduced before the passing of the Act?
Yes; it was, I think, in existence before.

Do you know whether Watts is in the habit of having a Pig in his Stye?
I do not know that.

How was this Petition got up; what was the Mode in which this Petition was set about; in whom did it originate?

With Kearsey, I believe.

What Steps did he take to get it adopted or get it signed; when was it proposed first?
He brought this Petition to me whilst Watts, Family were in the Workhouse; and this Part, which was omitted in the Second Petition, was specified in the First, that Two Children might be allowed to remain in the Workhouse Three or Four Months.

Did you contemplate the rest of the Family coming out?
Yes, certainly; that was the Object, to get the others out and let the Two remain.

Was that proposed at the Vestry?
I really do not know that it was proposed at the Vestry; if it was it was unknown to me; I was not present.

The first you heard of it was Kearsey bringing the Petition to you?
Yes.

Was there any Name to it at that Time?
No, not in the first Instance; I made this Observation to him at the Time, It is now so very late in the Year that I think the Commissioners will not attend to it; you had better let it remain till next Year, for you specify the Winter Months, and the Winter Months are nearly gone by; and Two Days afterwards the Family came Home of their own Accord, and I thought this Petition had dropped. Some Time afterwards this very Petition was brought to me, and I signed it.

Who brought it?
Kearsey.

Did any body accompany him upon that Occasion?
No; he was alone.

Did

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Did he explain the Circumstances, or say any thing to induce you to sign it?
Yes; he said it would be a Relief to the poor Man; and I certainly thought with him that it would be a Relief to him.

With respect to the First Petition, did he tell you that it would be a Relief to the Rate-payers if all the Family were allowed to come out but the Two Children?
That the Object was to relieve the poor Man, as it was specified in the Petition, and would be no Injury to the Rate-payers.

Then he applied to you with the Second Petition when the Family had come out of the Workhouse, requesting that the Two Children might remain in?
Yes.

Were there any Names to the Petition?
To the First there were not.

To the Second were there any Names?
Yes, several Names.

Do you recollect what were the Names; was Kingston's Name in it?
I observed his Name.

And Kearsey's?
Yes.

And Barnes's?
Yes, I believe so.

And Curtis's?
It is impossible for me to remember.

They requested you to put your Name at the Head?
Yes. The Signatures before would not have influenced my Signature at all in the Case, I beg to say.

Do you know whether they carried about the Petition to the other Rate-payers in order to collect Signatures?
No doubt they took it to their Houses.

Do you know the Names of the Parties who have signed it?
I have seen the Names.

Are they the principal Rate-payers?
The Names your Lordship mentioned just now are the principal Rate-payers.

Are there any of the principal Rate-payers of the Parish who refused to sign it?
Yes, Cundle.

Any body else?
I do not know that any body else refused of any Weight in the Parish, except Mr. Cannon.

Does Mr. Bevan reside in the Parish?
His House is not in the Parish; a Part of his Estate is in the Parish; his Bailiff resides in it.

Was he applied to to sign it?
I do not know; his Bailiff did sign it, I believe.

Do you know whether Mr. Bevan signed it?
I do not.

Did it occasion much Conversation in the Parish at the Time?
Yes; I believe it did.

Do you imagine that Watts would have availed himself of this Offer, and would have sent his Children into the Workhouse?
I do not know that he would. I do not know that poor People would avail themselves of the Privilege; their Feeling is very strong against the Workhouse, insomuch

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insomuch that I questioned the Wife of Watts on Tuesday last; I took that Opportunity of examining this Woman, thinking it very probable that I should be summoned again, and her Husband was not at Home; it was impossible to see the Husband in the Day-time.

Why is it impossible to see him in the Day-time?
Because he is at work.

What did Mrs. Watts say?
I examined her with respect to the Feeling of having Part of her Family in the Workhouse; she said, no; she did not like her Children to be in the Workhouse, very positively. I said, "Are you sure you would not consider it a Relief to you to remove Two or Three Children to the Workhouse?" "No;" she said, "I would rather maintain them at Home." "What is your Husband's Opinion upon that Point?" I asked; "The same," she said. "Then come to me To-morrow Morning; ascertain your Husband's Opinion upon that Point, because I think it is very likely I shall be questioned upon that Point, and let me know To-morrow Morning at Ten o'Clock what is your Husband's Opinion." She came, and she said, "No; I do not wish my Children to go to the Workhouse; I would much rather that they should suffer at Home than that they should go the Workhouse."

Did she tell you that they were suffering at Home?
They were suffering so far that she was obliged to maintain them.

Did she complain that they were badly off?
Yes; the Woman has a little Propensity that Way rather than others.

Have you ascertained with respect to any other Persons, — Townsend or Knight, — whether they would like to have their Children taken away?
Knight was from Home at the Time I called, and his Wife said she would rather have her Children suffer at Home. When I saw this Girl of Watts's (she is a sharp little Girl) I questioned her upon the Subject; I said, "You have been in the Workhouse; mind you tell me the Truth; would you like to go to the Workhouse rather than be at Home?" "No;" she said, "I would much rather be at Home." "Why?" I said; "Because I had not Victuals enough at the Workhouse." "What did you get at the Workhouse?" I asked; "what was your Breakfast?" "Why, I had Bread and Gruel." "What was your Dinner?" "Why, I had Meat for Dinner Three Times a Week, Beef or Bacon;" and after I had questioned her as to all this, I asked, "What do you get at Home?" She said, "I get Bread for Breakfast." "Tea, do you get?" "No Tea; but Mother gets a little weak Tea sometimes." "And Mother gives you a little, I suppose?" "No, she does not," she said. "Do you get Bread and Butter?" "No, not always; sometimes I do." "What is your Breakfast?" I said. "Bread," she said. "Nothing but Bread?" I asked, and she said, "Nothing but Bread;" and I said, "Bread and Gruel in the Workhouse is better than Bread at Home?" "No; but there was not enough to satisfy Nature;" that was her Answer. I suppose she meant the Cravings of Hunger.

Did she give you to understand that on the whole she had more Bread and Food that she liked better at Home than in the Workhouse?
She had more Food at Home, but not Food that she liked better.

The Food that she had at Home satisfied her better?
Yes.

Have you ever visited the Workhouse?
Yes, I have.

Have you examined the Diet Table?
No.

Do the People look starved?
I cannot answer that Question; I went about Two Years ago; I have not been since.

You say that you could not see Watts in the Day; does he not go to Church on the Sunday?
I have no Doubt that I know him, but I do not know him by his Name.

Does he come to your Church?
Yes; I know that the Man comes to Church.

You stated that Townsend lived some Distance from your Residence?
About Two Miles.

In case of Sickness or any thing happening to his Family, would you have visited them?
Unquestionably.

Are you aware that he has been sick at all during this last few Months?
No, I am not aware of it.

Or any of his Family?
No.

Do you think you should have heard if this Man's Family had been sick from eating Meat in an improper State? It has been stated before this Committee that this Man's Family ate a Ewe which had died in lambing, which produced an alarming Illness; do you think you should have heard of that?
I never heard of it.

Do you think you should have heard of it if it had happened?
The Man lives so very far from me, and goes to another Church, that such a Circumstance might have occurred, and not have come to my Knowledge.

When this First Petition was handed to you, you say you were then told that it was desirable, for the sake of Economy to the Parishioners, that that Arrangement should be made, of taking Part of the Family into the Workhouse, and leaving the rest of the Family out?
Certainly.

Was that told you as the only Reason for that Petition, or as One of the Reasons?
That it would benefit both the Rate-payers and the Labourer. I cannot conceive the Object of admitting a whole Family into the Workhouse, and not a Part of a Family; the Object, I imagine, is Economy; it is considered to be a less Expense to the Parish to maintain a whole Family for a short Time than a Part of a Family for a long Time. I cannot understand the object of the Commissioners in saying, we will admit the whole Family into the Workhouse and not a Part; my Idea is, that by admitting the whole Family into the Workhouse you make the Situation of the able-bodied Man uncomfortable, and force him to seek for Labour.

Do not you think that a good Object?
A very great Object, a most desirable Object; but I cannot help thinking that the Amendment Act has a two-fold Object in view, of lightening the Burden of the Parish, and at the same Time of benefiting the Labourer; because admitting a whole Family seems to have regard only to the Rate-payer, because it is a less Expense.

Did you see the Children soon after the Family came out of the Workhouse?
Not immediately; I have seen them this last Week.

Did they appear to you to have suffered from Want of Food?
It was impossible they should, for the Time they were there was so short.

When you spoke to the Girl with respect to the Food she had in her own House, the Committee understood you to say that she had Bread; do you mean to say that that was the only Food she had?
That was what she said, for I questioned her many Times; she said, "Nothing but Bread for Breakfast."

What had she for Dinner; did she say that she had Meat in her own House?
No, never. I put that Question to her, "On Sunday you have a little Bacon?" and she said, "No, never." "Not once in a Month?" "No." I said, "How then can you complain of the Workhouse?" "We had good Victuals there, but it was not enough; there was plenty of Meat, but not plenty of Vegetables."

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Vegetables." She complained of Want of Vegetables, and that is the Complaint of all. The Mother of those Children said that the Children were obliged to eat fat Bacon without any Bread.

Did she tell you that she had Milk when she was at Home?
I said, "Do you get any Whey or Butter Milk?" she said, "No; the Farmers will not give it."

Had she Potatoes?
Yes; they had Potatoes.

And Garden Stuff from this Land which she cultivated?
That is, Potatoes only.

Is it your Impression that they fare better at the Workhouse or at Home?
I think they are much better in the Workhouse. As to the Quantity you give to Children, they will stuff till they can eat no more, and I think it is rather a Charity not to give them so much; but I think if the Children had more Vegetables, as that seems to satisfy them, it would be desirable.

It is possible their Stomachs may be more accustomed to that Sort of Food than to Meat?
Yes, I think there is a great deal in that.

In your Parish, since the Introduction of the Poor Law, have the Manners and Morals of the People improved, in your Opinion?
Yes, I think they have. I have the most favourable Opinion of the Poor Law as a general Measure; I think the Labourers are more industrious, more orderly, more sober, and more obedient to their Masters than formerly.

Under the new Poor Law have you seen any great Instances of severe Suffering on the Part of the Poor?
Certainly; I think the Burden has fallen very much upon us Clergymen, who are called upon by our Duty to see the Poor, and we cannot visit them without observing the great Distress which very often we are obliged to witness; and we are called upon by Feelings of Humanity to relieve them as far as is in our Power.

Is that more so since the passing of the new Law?
Greatly more so; I have felt it myself.

During the severe Frost in the last Winter was it particularly distressing to see the poor People?
They were in great Distress last Winter.

More so than usual?
The Severity of the Weather occasioned Distress; not more than that.

Did it appear to you that they bore their Difficulties as well as they could, to prevent themselves from going into the Workhouse?
Yes, I think so; I think the Poor are industrious, and do their best.

They are not anxious to throw themselves upon the Parish?
They can only throw themselves upon the Workhouse now, which they are most anxious to avoid.

You suppose that to have been one of the Objects of making the Poor-house a Test?
Yes.

Therefore in that respect it has answered?
Very much so, certainly.

Then why do you think that the Departure from the Test which you propose to the Extent of taking those Two Children into the Workhouse, would be desirable?
I certainly think that it would relieve the Man, so far as the Feeding of Two Mouths would be taken off his Hands.

If the Test of the Workhouse has been such as to induce them to avoid going into the Workhouse, and to do the best for the Family, why do you think

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think that taking Two of the Family and putting them into the Workhouse might not have the Effect of lessening the Disposition to provide for their Family as much as they can?

I do not think it would, for there is a strong Feeling against the Workhouse; but by talking with them I think that would be removed; indeed, I have represented to them how Gentlemen were obliged to send their Children away from them to School, and could not see them, and I found that I succeeded in gaining their Consent to allowing a Part of their Family to go to the Workhouse, at least for the Winter Months.

Did you ever ask the Woman why she did not get the eldest Girl into Service?

She cannot succeed.

Why cannot she succeed?

The poor People cannot get Places for them that they would wish, in a Gentleman's Family or Farmer's House; there is a Glut in the Market I should imagine.

Practically speaking, they do find some Difficulty in getting their Children out if they wish it?

This Man would wish it.

Do they take pains to find Places?

Whether the Family do take pains it is impossible for me to say; they say that they do.

Do the Farmers complain that they cannot get Servants?

No, not that I am aware.

Did you ever hear Mr. Kearsey make that Complaint?

No.

Has Mr. Kearsey lately taken a Girl into his Service out of the Workhouse?

He is about to take one.

Is she a Girl of his Parish?

Yes.

Do you know her Name?

No; I do not know the Particulars.

Does it appear to you that there is any Indisposition on the Part of the Labourers to allow their Children to be separated from them for the Purpose of going into Service?

They have no Objection to that.

Do they try to get their Children into Service?

Yes, they do.

But they have an Objection to the Children being separated from them to go into the Workhouse?

That is the plausible Argument, but the real Argument is their suffering from short Diet; for I put that Question to this Woman Knight; she said first of all she did not like the Children to go so far from Home, when she could not see them, and I said, "That is not your Objection, for they go to Service; your great Objection is," I said, "that you think they are not well fed there?" "Yes, Sir; I must tell the Truth; I had not Victuals enough, and the Children had not Victuals enough;" that was the Answer of the Woman, and that is the general Answer with respect to the Workhouse.

Supposing them to be fully fed in the Workhouse, that would be rather an Inducement for them to remain in the Workhouse, upon the same reasoning?

Yes; I do not think they would have any Objection in that Case.

Therefore it may perhaps be the Reason of their being fed shortly in the Workhouse?

It depends upon the Time specified; if they are allowed to remain there for the Winter Months that would alter the Case; but if no Time is specified, no Doubt they would be very glad to let them remain there till they are Twelve Years of Age or Thirteen, or able to do something for themselves.

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When you went to the Workhouse were any Children there?
Yes, in School.

Did they look well in Health?
Yes; I think they did.

Have you heard any Complaint of their not being well fed?
There is a Rumour about the Country of that Kind.

Is it confined to the Children?
I ought to observe, that from the Tone of the Girl I understood that the Discipline was strict.

Was it the Discipline or Food to which they objected?
I made this Observation; I said, "Should you not like to go to School, and learn your Book?" She said, "I like to read my Book very well;" but I think she was under stricter Discipline than at Home, and that that was One Objection.

Have you heard that there is a Disinclination among the Girls generally to accept of domestic Service, that they prefer Out-door Labour in the Fields?
I have certainly heard that they prefer Out-door Labour, because they have the Sundays to themselves, which they have not when in Service.

Do you think it is possible for a Man with the same Number of Children as Watts and Townsend have to live upon their Earnings, unless some other Assistance is given to them by taking some of the Family into the Workhouse, or by Out-door Relief, without great Privation?
They have lived upon it, I think, very hardly; I think 8*s.* a Week must be considered low Wages to support Nine People.

Can you state since the passing of the new Poor Law whether Crimes have increased in your Neighbourhood?
No; I should think not increased, but rather otherwise.

Have you any Beer House in Shalbourne?
No; we have no Beer House now; there are Two regular Public Houses now; One was a Beer House.

It was One Public House and One Beer House?
Yes; One of the Two was a Beer House, and is now converted into a Public House.

Do you know whether the Beer Houses in the Neighbourhood have fallen off in their Custom?
All the other Beer Houses are some Distance from me, Three or Four Miles, I think, therefore I cannot answer that Question. There is another Public House in my Parish, near Mr. Kearsey's, where this Family live; that is a regular Public House. I went to this Public House on Tuesday; there is a Friendly Society there; I questioned the Man with regard to the Number of Members in that Society, and whether the Alteration of the Poor Law had made any great Difference, whether the Number of Members had increased or diminished; and I think it is a very strong Feature in favour of the new Poor Law that the Numbers have increased within the last Two Years to the Amount of Twenty.

Amongst the agricultural Labourers?
Yes, entirely. This Club was established about Twelve Years ago, before the passing of this Act, and the Number has increased, which I think speaks very much in favour of the new Poor Law; there is another Club in my Parish, which was established about Two Years ago; the Number there is increasing.

Is that a Friendly Club?
Yes.

Do you know any thing about the Savings Bank at Hungerford?
No, I do not know much about that.

Supposing that the Relief was given to such Men as Watts and others, by taking their Children into the Workhouse, as you proposed in your Letter to the

the Poor Law Commissioners, do you think that that would have any Effect in inducing Persons to think that it was not so necessary to subscribe to those Societies? *Rev. D. Williams.*

I think the Horror they have of the Workhouse has induced them to appropriate something to those Friendly Societies.

Do you not think that the Mode of Relief which you proposed to the Commissioners would rather remove that Feeling?
No; it would increase the Feeling; it would enable them better to do it.

Would it not rather tend to lead them to say, we shall have our Children taken care of in the Workhouse, and therefore we have no Occasion to subscribe to these Societies?
No; I think not; they would have a greater Disposition to do it, because their Funds would be increased.

You think their Disposition would depend upon their Means of doing it?
Yes.

Are you aware whether any Labourers with large Families are Subscribers to those Friendly Societies?
There is one of the Name of Rolfe.

John Rolfe, or Charles Rolfe?
I do not know what his Christian Name is; he has Five Children at Home, and the rest are at Service.

And he does subscribe?
Yes.

Is Watts a Subscriber to those Clubs?
I do not know; I think Watts does not subscribe.

Does Townsend?
I cannot really say as to Townsend.

Knight?
I cannot tell about him.

Do you know George Waters?
There is a Man of that Name.

Has he a large Family?
I have never understood that he had a large Family; he has Three or Four Children, I think.

Does he subscribe to a Club?
I think he does.

Are there Two Rolfes who subscribe?
The Man with a large Family subscribes to the Fund.

What Family has he?
Five Children; and this Woman was likely to have another before Christmas, I think he said.

Do you know William Baker, a Man with a large Family?
I do not remember him.

What do they contribute weekly or monthly to these Clubs?
1*s.* 3*d.* a Month.

Are there any Clothing Clubs in your Parish?
Yes; with the Assistance of the Marchioness of Aylesbury, I established a Penny-a-week Clothing Club.

Are any of the Fathers and Mothers of those large Families Subscribers to that Penny-a-week Club?
I believe every Woman in my Parish who has a large Family is a Subscriber to it. I made a Rule last Winter, as they were so numerous the Winter before, to admit only those who had Four Children upon the Fund; by dividing the Benefit among so many reduced it to 1*s.* 4*d.* a Head, but last Year they had 1*s.* a Head, in addition to their Subscription.

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What do they pay?
4*s.* a Year, 4*d.* a Month.

That has taken place since the Introduction of the new Poor Law?
Within the last Three Years.

That is an Effect of the Restriction with respect to going into the Workhouse?
Yes; I think that has been One Cause of it.

Is it still your Opinion that a Relaxation of the Nature that you have recommended would not have the Effect of weakening their Inducement to subscribe to those Societies?
No; I should think not generally; I should think it would have a contrary Effect. The Feeling towards the Workhouse is very repugnant; they have no Wish at all to send their Children there.

But still, if they felt that they could get their Children into the Workhouse, would they not feel that they had not so great an Occasion to subscribe to those Benefit Clubs for the Purpose of providing for their Family as they do now?
The Benefit Clubs are of little Benefit to them, because what they derive from the Club now was derived from the Parish before the Club; and it is no Sort of Benefit to the poor Man any more than it contributes to the Support of his Independence.

Is that no Benefit?
It certainly is a Benefit. They have come to complain to me upon the Subject, and said, "We will not subscribe to this Society, because we can gain no Advantage from it beyond what we can get from the Parish," and I said, "If you subscribe to this Society you claim this as a Right, whereas in the other Case you throw yourself upon the Parish."

What do they derive from the Club?
6*s.* a Week in case of Sickness.

Do not you think that a Relaxation of the Nature you propose would tend to decrease the Inducement on the Part of the Labourers to belong to those Clubs, and if you do not think so, what is the Ground of your Opinion?
The Ground of my Opinion is, that taking Part of a large Family into the Workhouse would not throw any Sort of Impediment in their Way,— quite the reverse; I think it would make Benefit Societies more universal through the Parish.

Supposing that the Rule was not a strict one, that they must go into the Workhouse if they receive Relief for themselves or their Children, you say they would not subscribe to those Clubs at all?
I think they would; I think they would do it more if you lighten their Burden; they would then be more able to subscribe to those Clubs; now a Man with a large Family, and earning 8*s.* weekly, contrives to become a Member of a Club, which is very much to his Credit.

Is it not a dangerous thing to do any thing which should decrease the Inducement to subscribe to those Clubs?
Yes, if your Lordships regard it in that Light; but I regard it in another Light, that it would increase the Inducement.

Then, upon the best Consideration you can give to the Subject, you think that such a Relaxation as you recommended to the Poor Law Commissioners would not have the Effect of weakening that Inducement?
No, I think not.

You say that you think this Privilege would not be accepted by the Parents; who would be most likely to accept that Mode of Relief, the thrifty and industrious, or the less moral and idle?
I think the thrifty, in removing the Feeling now against the Workhouse, would be very willing to avail themselves of it; no Doubt the profligate would be still more so.

Have you any Dispensary in your Parish?
No.

Any Medical Club?
No.

What is the Number of agricultural Labourers in your Parish?
The Population of the Parish is little short of 1,000, about Half a Dozen short of 1,000.

In this Clothing Club do you limit them to a Penny a Week?
Yes, we do.

You do not allow them to bring more?
No; because they could receive no more Benefit; those large Families have not only supported a Club, but they have likewise supported a Penny-a-week Clothing Society.

In such a Case as that what is the Deduction per Week from their Means of maintaining their Family for the sake of those Clubs?
The Club is 1*s.* 3*d.* a Month, and the other is 4*d.* a Month; that would be 1*s.* 7*d.* a Month.

Are they relieved according to the Size of their Families, supposing them to come upon the Fund?
No, not at all; there is no regard paid to the Families in that Case.

They are only relieved when the Member of the Society is ill?
Yes.

Do they get any thing in the Club towards the Funeral, in the Case of the Death of any Subscriber?
They do in most Societies, and I think they give something in this. This is upon a very narrow Principle; there is a Division of Money every Seven Years; at the Expiration of Seven Years the Funds are divided between the Members, reserving, I think, about 5*l.* to go on to begin again.

Do you know whether it has been duly certified by Mr. Tidd Pratt?
No; it is not certified at all; it is not licensed; they have no Security for their Money; it depends upon the general Conduct of the Club.

When the Division takes place once in Seven Years, upon what Principle is that Division made?
Upon the Principle of Contribution; if a Person had contributed for Five Years he would receive more than a Member for Two Years.

In what State is Watts's Cottage as to Furniture?
Very indifferent indeed.

Does it bespeak Poverty or Mismanagement, or both?
It does not bespeak Mismanagement apparently.

Is he a Subscriber to this Club?
I am not clear whether he is.

Have the Farmers generally come forward as Subscribers to this Penny Club?
They did subscribe a little the Year before last; last Year they would not come forward, and the Marchioness of Aylesbury's Subscription I had not last Year; she was absent; the Vicar and myself, and Two more, entirely supported it last Winter.

Is he resident in the Parish?
No; he is resident near Winchester; he is a very old Man.

What Amount in Subscriptions had you the previous Year?
5*l.* from the Marchioness of Aylesbury, and about 4*l.* or 5*l.* more from others.

And the Farmers have entirely withdrawn their Subscriptions?
They never have subscribed much. Farmer Kingston's Wife subscribed 1*l.* 1*s.* the Year before last, the rest subscribed, some 2*s.* 6*d.*, and some 5*s.*; it

Rev. D. Williams.

is a very poor Parish; the Squire of the Parish is the Marquis of Aylesbury; he owns Three Fourths of the Parish.

In your Memorial to the Poor Law Commissioners you state, that at the Time of the Formation of your Union it was understood that this Indulgence would be given in respect to taking Children and their Families into the Workhouse, if there should be Occasion for it; this is the Passage: "There are to our Knowledge many respectable Persons in the Neighbourhood who much disapprove of the Guardians not having Power on the Point we refer to, more especially so as it was universally understood at the Time of the Formation of our Union that a Promise to that Effect was given, and we believe upon the Faith of such Understanding Numbers of Persons have done their best to assist in the working of the Poor Law Amendment Act"?
I do not know any thing about that.

It is in the last Clause of the Memorial, to which you have put your Name?
They tell me so; I know nothing about that.

Who drew up that Memorial?
I cannot say.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Mr. Joseph Cundle.

Mr. JOSEPH CUNDLE is called in, and examined as follows:

WHERE do you reside?
At Shalbourne.

Are you a Farmer there?
Yes.

What sized Farm do you occupy?
Not now quite 200 Acres.

Is it your own, or do you rent it from any body else?
I rent it of the Marquis of Aylesbury.

Have you been elected a Guardian of the Parish of Shalbourne for the Hungerford Union?
Not this Year; I was from the Commencement up to the present Year.

Do you know a Person of the Name of Isaac Watts, a Labourer, in your Parish?
I do.

Was there at any Time an Application made to you to give Relief to that Man?
He made Application to the relieving Officer when I was attending to see the Poor paid.

How long ago is that?
Some Time in February.

Was it during the Frost?
Yes.

What Answer was given to that?
He was told by the relieving Officer and by myself that if he wanted Relief he must go to the Board of Guardians.

Did he go to the Board?
He did.

Were you present?
I was.

What did he ask for when he came to the Board of Guardians?
He asked for Relief.

What Answer did he get to that?
That he could have no Relief as an able-bodied Man, unless he chose to go to the Union House.

Did

Mr. Joseph Cundle.

Did the Board enter into the Particulars of his Case?
They asked him, as they always do, the Number of his Family, and whether he was in Work, and whether he wanted Work; and his Reply was that he did not want Work, he was in Work.

Did they ask him the Amount of his Earnings?
Yes.

And his Family's Earnings?
Yes, and whether any were employed or not.

What was the Decision?
That he might have an Order to go to the Union House if he chose.

When that was offered him what did he say?
He hesitated; and the Board told him he might use his own Discretion; he might take the Order, and use his own Discretion about going; he was not to go in in consequence of having that, if he did not like to go.

Was there any Discussion in the Board about giving him any Relief out of the House?
No more than being an able-bodied Man, and having Employment, he could not have Relief.

All the Members of the Board of Guardians concurred in that?
I do not know that all of them might concur in that; I cannot charge my Memory.

Do you remember whether there was any body who expressed any Dissent to it?
I do not recollect that there was any Dissent given.

Have you not an Order not to relieve able-bodied Labourers out of the House?
Yes; from the Poor Law Commissioners.

Was there any Reference made to you, as the Guardian of that particular Parish, for your Opinion?
No, not more than as to his Situation, if I knew him, and what his Family was.

Did he come into the Workhouse?
He did.

How soon after that Application?
This was on the Wednesday, and I think he went in on the Friday.

How long did he remain in the Workhouse?
I think about a Week; I cannot exactly say.

Did you see him when he came into the Workhouse?
I did.

Had you known the Man previously?
I had.

Was there any Change in his Appearance in consequence of his being in the Workhouse?
I do not think that there was; he has not a healthy Appearance at any Time.

Did he complain of his Health having suffered in any Way from his having been in the Workhouse?
Not that I recollect.

Did his Children look healthy when they came out of the Workhouse?
I did not know their Appearance before they went in, but I did not see that they looked unhealthy when I saw them.

After that Period was there any other Application made upon his Case to the Board of Guardians for Relief in any Way?
Yes; I believe one of the Board of Guardians was desirous of having a

Mr. Joseph Cundle.

discretionary Power to relieve Men with large Families, by taking One or Two into the House.

That was upon a general Rule; but was there any Application made with respect to this Man Isaac Watts?
I do not think there was.

Was there any Application to you to take Two of his Children only into the Workhouse, leaving the rest of the Family out?
Mr. Kingston and Mr. Kearsey proposed that at the House where we pay the Poor; they mentioned that to me, that they thought it would be a good Thing to send Two of the Children into the House.

Did they mention that to you in order to convey that to the Board of Guardians, or was that casual Conversation?
That was casual Conversation.

Was any Application of that Sort ever made to the Board of Guardians?
I do not remember that there was.

Did you ever mention that to the Board?
No, I do not recollect that I did.

There was at no Time an Application to the Board of that Sort?
Not that I can recollect.

You are aware that a Letter went from most of the Rate-payers in that Parish to the Poor Law Commissioners, to request that that might be the Case?
I understood that there was; I was asked to sign the Memorial to the Poor Law Commissioners, and I declined doing it, because I considered that it would be reverting to the old System to take Children from their Parents and send them into the Workhouse.

Will you have the goodness to explain what the old System was to which you think you would have been reverting?
Of relieving them from the Poor Rates; and I observed to Mr. Kingston and Mr. Kearsey that I could not do it on that Ground, that I considered that the Object of the Poor Law was to raise the Labourer from the degrading Dependence on Parish Relief.

And that this would be a Description of Parish Relief, and therefore would tend to degrade Isaac Watts?
Not only him, but all the Labourers.

But in the particular Instance of Isaac Watts, that it would tend to degrade him?
Not him in particular, but generally.

It was more the general Effect upon the Paupers than upon this Man that you looked to?
Yes.

You did not imagine that it would have been possible to stop there, but that many other Families would be found in the same Circumstances?
Yes; I said, If you do that you will pauperize the Children you send there, and hold out an Encouragement also to Boys and Girls to make improvident Marriages, and they will make this Calculation: If we have Four, Five, or Six Children, and cannot support them, we may calculate that the Board of Guardians would take One or Two from us; therefore I said that I thought it would be a great Inducement to improvident Marriages.

Do you think it would be a great Inducement to improvident Marriages if the Poor were to know that if they had Six Children they might have a Chance of having One provided for by the Parish?
I do think so. Under the old System it was the Observation of the Labourers, if we get married and have some Children the Parish must support them.

If they had been told, if you get married and have Five Children, for instance, you

you will have no Relief from the Parish, but if you have Six you will; you think that would be an Inducement to them to make improvident Marriages?
Yes; and I observed, that I thought it would not rest exactly there; that a Man might say, I cannot support my Family, and therefore you must relieve me by taking One or Two from me.

Provided they had a certain Number?
Yes.

And you think that giving Relief to that Extent would induce the Parties to make improvident Marriages?
I do.

Do you think they would be more degraded by having Two of their Children in the Workhouse than by the Man himself and his Wife, and all his Children, being obliged to go in?
I think so.

Why?
Because the Children would be brought up, I consider, as Paupers.

If they were taken in for a short Time, they belonging to a very large Family, only during the very hard Weather, would that be a greater Degradation than the Man and his Wife and all the Family going in?
I do not know how they would consider it, but I consider it a Degradation to the Man.

The Question is a Question of Comparison; would it be more degrading to take those Two Children into the Workhouse, and leave the rest of the Family out, than to take the whole Family in?
No; I do not know that it would.

Do you know Isaac Watts personally?
Yes.

What Sort of a Man is he?
An industrious Labourer, as far as I know; I live Half a Mile from his Residence, and I am not in the habit of seeing him often.

Has he the Character of an industrious Man?
I believe he has.

A Man of sober Habits?
Yes.

His having worked for One Master for Nine Years is pretty good Evidence of his good Character, is it not?
Yes, I should say so.

Is his Wife reckoned a good Manager?
I do not know, but from her Appearance I should think she was not.

You do not know how that is?
No, not exactly. I know that my Wife made a little Collection for her about a Twelvemonth ago, to supply her with a few Clothes and necessary Things, and the Girl came up to my House some Time after that, and the Cloak was in a very dirty filthy Condition; that is all I know of her.

From which you infer that they are not cleanly?
Not as to their domestic Management.

He has been employed for Nine Years for Mr. Kingston?
I believe so.

At what Rate of Wages?
I believe Mr. Kingston employs all his Men at the daily Wages of 8*s.* a Week.

Is that the full Wages of your Parish?
Yes, the Day Wages.

Mr. Joseph Cundle.

Is there any Distinction made between the married Labourers and the single ones in the Wages paid to them?
I believe some of the Farmers do make a Distinction, but I do not. I pay my single Men the same as I do the married Men, and have ever since I have been in Business.

In point of fact, can you get your Work cheaper done by the single Men than by the married Men?
I have never asked that, because I have always kept the same Men for nearly the last Twenty Years, Two of them.

How many of those are single Men?
Two are single Men, who have worked for me nearly Twenty Years; the Brother, who also works for me, is a married Man.

And you have made no Distinction between the Wages paid to single Men and married Men?
No.

How many do you employ?
Nine.

Does that include your Team Drivers?
Five Day Labourers, Carter and under Carter, and Shepherd and Fogger, and Three Team Drivers.

And you keep Five Labourers upon your Farm?
Four regularly, and Five sometimes.

Is not that more than the Farm would require naturally?
No; I always find something for them to do.

And something that turns out profitably to yourself?
Yes.

Where is your Farm situated; under the Hill or up the Hill?
Under the Hill.

Is it good Land?
Some good Land and some light.

Does Mr. Kingston do as you do; has he kept his Labourers, generally speaking?
That I do not know.

Do you know what Proportion of Labourers he keeps for his Land?
He occupies about 1,000 Acres in the Parish, and I think altogether, with the Number he employed at Ham, where he occupies a Farm, he told Mr. Hall, the Poor Law Commissioner, that he employs Forty, and he occupies 1,600 Acres. I have heard it reported so, I do not know it of my own Knowledge.

In point of fact, there was nothing against this Man Isaac Watts, from his Character, that would have induced you to have refused him Relief, provided it had not been for the Rule of which you have spoken?
No; and I have always voted against that at the Board, because I considered that it was contrary to the legitimate Object of the Act of Parliament.

Has there been any Discussion at the Board as to how far it would be right to relax that Rule?
Some have wanted to relax it in particular Instances.

Have there been any particular Instances in which they have wished to relax the Rule?
I think there was One besides this.

But there was no Discussion in this Case of Watts whether the Rule should be relaxed; the Answer was given directly?
It was.

Mr. Joseph Cundle.

Have you at any Time had a Discussion in the Board upon the Subject of relaxing the Rule in any individual Case?
Yes; it has been proposed by a Guardian for the Guardians to have that discretionary Power, and it was put to the Vote, and the Vote was against that.

Do you mean to say that an Application was to be made to the Poor Law Commissioners to give you the discretionary Power?
Yes; it was proposed by one of the Guardians, and carried against the Guardian who proposed it.

How did the Guardians vote in point of Number upon the Subject?
I think there was not a very full Board; the Majority was Three.

How many were there at the Board then?
I cannot say.

Were there Twenty?
No; our Union consists of only Twenty-five Guardians.

Were there Ten?
There might have been, but I cannot pretend to say.

Do you happen to recollect how many were in favour of the Relaxation?
No, I do not; but I believe the Majority was Three.

You said an Application came from Mr. Kingston and Mr. Kearsey to take Two of Watts's Children into the Workhouse?
They talked of it at the House where the Poor were paid, and they wished me to sign the Petition, and I told them that I could not do it, because I considered that it was contrary to the Principle of the Act of Parliament.

They did not mention it to the Board?
No; they were not Guardians.

Did Watts specially apply to have Two of his Children taken into the House, or did he apply for Relief?
He applied for Relief.

The Reason for your Refusal to take in his Children was that you had not Power to do so, under a Regulation of the Poor Law Commissioners?
Yes; we had an Order from the Poor Law Commissioners preventing it; but my Reason for refusing to take Watts's Children into the House was for the Reason before stated.

You say you employ Five Men as Labourers constantly upon your Farm?
Four constantly, and Five occasionally, as Out-door Labourers; Barn Men are included in that Number. Out-door Men mean those who are not Carters and Shepherds.

What do you employ those Persons at?
Threshing, chiefly, and Wood-work,—Hedging, and in the working-up and attending to the Water and dry Meadows.

Do the Farms in general in your Neighbourhood occupy so many Labourers in proportion to their Size as you do?
No.

What induces you to do that?
Because I find some Employment for them to do in the Field or in the Barn.

What is your System of Farming?
The Four Field System and Three Field System.

Are your Hedges very large?
No; I have a great deal of dead Hedging.

Do you consider that those Men that are called Boys of Eighteen or Nineteen are equal to do the Work of a married Man?
They are equal to it, if they have the Knowledge.

Mr. Joseph Cundle.

Is any Part of Mr. Kingston's 1,600 Acres up-hill Land?
Yes; some Part above and some below.

Has he any Sheep-walk?
Yes; that I include in the 1,600 Acres.

Where is your Board held?
At Hungerford.

The Workhouse is at Lambourne?
It is.

Have you ever been Visitor at the Workhouse?
Many Times.

What is the State of the Children there; are they well off?
Very well I consider.

Have you a School there?
Yes.

Have you been there lately?
No; because I am not a Guardian.

Have you been there since the Winter?
Yes; I was there about a Month before the Expiration of the Year.

Have you heard any Complaint of the Children not having Food enough in the Workhouse?
No.

Have you never heard them complain that the Quality of their Diet was very good, but the Quantity insufficient?
I heard Watts say that he thought the Quantity not sufficient.

Had the Children the Appearance of Health?
Very much so.

Do you obtain your whole Livelihood from that Farm of 200 Acres?
I do.

This extra Work which you give to your Men more than other Farmers in your Neighbourhood give you find profitable to you?
Yes.

Though it is done from Feelings of Kindness, it is repaid to you?
Yes.

It is equally advantageous to the Employer and the Labourer?
Yes, I have found it so, or I should not have done it; I should not have continued the Number of Labourers I have for the last Twenty Years if I had not found it so; and now that Corn is at a remunerating Price I should think there is Plenty of Employment for Labour.

For that Number of Labourers on that Quantity of Land?
I cannot say that, because some Farms may not require it.

Is there any thing particular upon your Farm which requires that Quantity of Labour?
According to my Judgment; I endeavour to keep my Land very clean, and my Hedges and Fences.

You think it is an advantageous Application of your Capital?
I do.

Were many People out of Employ in Shalbourne before the passing of the new Poor Law Act?
Somewhere about Twenty Men in the Winter.

Has that been the Case in the Two last Years?
None that I know of have been out of Employment; that is, good Labourers in Character.

Mr. Joseph Cundle.

Have you found that the Labourers generally in the Neighbourhood are more orderly, more industrious, more civil, and more desirous of getting Places and keeping their Places than formerly?

As to my own Men, I cannot say any thing about them, because they have been with me so long; but I have heard it reported by other Farmers, and not only in my Parish, but in other Parishes.

In Hungerford Parish, is that so?
Yes.

That was formerly a very disorderly Parish?
Yes.

And Lambourne Parish?
Yes.

Do you happen to know how many were out of Employment in Lambourne Parish in the Winter before the passing of the Act?
110 or 120, I have heard the Farmers say.

How many last Winter?
I cannot say.

Do you remember having any Applications from those Parishes by People out of Employment, when you were sitting as a Guardian?
No, not many, in proportion to the Population.

You would not conclude that many were out of Work?
No.

If they had been out of Work you could not but have heard of it?
No.

Has it come under your Observation whether any Effect has been produced upon Beer Houses since the Introduction of the Act?
The Men, and the young Men particularly, do not spend their Money in Beer, as they did before.

Have the Beer Houses diminished in Number?
I do not know that they have diminished in Number, but I think they have not drawn so much Beer. We had Fifteen or Sixteen Girls out of Employment in my Parish, who were supported by Parish Relief in the Winter, and since the passing of the new Law we have not had One that I know of; and we had Seventeen Bastards maintained by the Parish at the Time of the Union, and now we have not One.

You have not had any Bastards born in the Parish?
But One since the Union, and the Mother of that the Man has married.

Not only you have had no Bastards chargeable upon the Parish, but you have not had Bastards born in the Parish?
No; there has been only One, and she did not belong to us; she came from another Parish to this, because her Mother was residing in the Parish, and there she lay in, but she did not reside there.

But of the young Women in your Parish not One has had a Bastard since the Formation of the Union?
No, except the One I have mentioned.

Do you know the average Number before?
No, I do not; but we had Seventeen Cases before; One was paid partially for by the Father, and One by the Father, who is a Man in good Circumstances.

You were not in the habit of getting Payment from the Fathers?
No.

Why not?
When they were apprehended they would suffer Imprisonment, and consider themselves discharged.

Mr. Joseph Cundle.

Did you usually take them up in those Cases?
We took up Men when I was Overseer.

Was it the usual Practice of the Parish to have the Man up before the Magistrates, and either make him pay or send him to Prison?
We used to take them up, if we could find them.

When a Woman was with Child in your Parish, was it your Habit immediately to get a Summons from a Magistrate for the Man, and to compel him to enter into Recognizances to appear when the Child was born?
No, not if the Woman was not chargeable.

Supposing the Woman to apply for Relief to the Parish Officer, was it your Habit to go before a Magistrate in the Manner stated?
Yes; it was when I was Overseer.

Was it usual after that to force the Man to pay, by an Order of the Magistrates, and if he did not to oblige him to go to Prison?
Yes.

You had Seventeen Bastards upon the Parish when the new Law came into operation?
Yes.

And only One was paid for regularly?
Yes.

With respect to the other Sixteen, had the Men suffered Imprisonment because they would not pay?
One was paid for regularly; another was by a Labourer, and he was taken up and went to Prison.

After staying a certain Time in Prison did he come out?
Yes.

Was he sent to Prison again for not paying?
He went away, and I do not know that I have seen him since.

With respect to the other Fifteen, can you give any Account of the Manner in which you dealt with the Parties who were charged with those Children?
There has been no dealing with them.

They were not taken up?
No; some of them, Three or Four of the Fathers of them, were married to the Mothers, and then we maintained the Child.

As being a Bastard Child?
Yes.

Although the Mother was married to the Father?
Yes.

But there were some Cases in which that did not take place; was there any pains taken with respect to those Cases to make the Fathers of the Children pay for their Maintenance, by an Order of the Magistrates?
I went in pursuit of One of them, and took a great deal of Trouble to get him, but could not succeed.

Then in fact the Custom of carrying them before the Magistrate had dropped, from the Difficulty of carrying it into execution?
We could not find the Father oftentimes.

Have your Rates been diminished since the passing of the Act?
Something better than Half.

Better than Fifty per Cent.?
I should think rather better; I will not say exactly, because the Relief to Paupers before the Union was by Employment upon the Roads, and that was mixed up with the actual Relief to the other Paupers; therefore think it is not so much as that.

The Highway Rates now form a separate Charge?
Yes.

Mr. Joseph Cundle

Did you pay any Rent for Cottages before the new Act?
None.

To revert to this Case of Isaac Watts, they applied to you to sign this Petition?
They did.

And you declined?
Yes.

What did they state to you as an Inducement for signing the Paper?
That they thought it would be a Benefit to the Man to be relieved by taking Two of the Children away.

That not being able to maintain his Family, they thought he ought to be relieved to the Extent of taking away Two of his Children?
Yes.

Was any thing said of any Relief to the Rate-payers by such a Proceeding?
I did not hear that; but I considered that it would be a Relief to the Master, and not a Relief to the Parish altogether.

Supposing a Man were forced into the Workhouse of Lambourne Parish, would you have to maintain the whole Family?
Yes.

Supposing the taking the Two Children had prevented the rest of the Family from coming upon the Parish, would not the Parish have been Gainers by that?
Yes.

Was that pointed out to you by Mr. Kingston or Mr. Kearsey when they came to you to ask you to sign this Paper?
I do not recollect that it was; but my Observation upon that many Times has been, that I would rather maintain the whole of them in the Union House than revert to the old System.

What was the Ground upon which they asked you to sign that Paper; that it would be a Sort of charitable Relief to the Family?
I do not recollect that they made that Observation to me.

What was the Inducement held out to you to sign the Petition?
Because they thought that it would relieve the Man.

Then it was from a charitable Feeling towards the Man?
Yes, as they said.

Did you hear any thing about Two Memorials?
Yes; the First was to take Two Children, without Distinction of Sex, and the Second Memorial, which I have not seen, was to take the Girls.

The First Memorial was to let the Family out?
Yes.

That would have benefited the Rate-payers?
Yes.

Was that Argument used to you as an Inducement to sign the First Memorial, that the Rate-payers would be benefited?
I do not recollect that that was mentioned to me.

It was stated to you that it was hard to force these People into the Workhouse, and that they thought the better Way would be to take Two of the Children, which would enable them to maintain the remainder; was that the Ground mentioned?
Yes; and I have heard it mentioned by One of the Rate-payers, that it would be easing the Parish to maintain Two, instead of the whole Family.

When they came to you, requesting you to sign that Paper, did they state that as a Reason for your signing it?
No; I do not recollect that they did.

You are aware what the Income of a Person in the Circumstances of Watts is in the course of a Year?
That depends upon his Employment.

Mr. Joseph Cundle.

Supposing him to be employed himself throughout the Year, and the Wife and the Children taking the Chance of Harvesting and that Sort of Work, are you aware what their Income would be likely to be?

No, I am not; not so much as some Men, because he has not that manual Strength, but he would earn more than 8*s.* a Week if he were put to work by the Piece during Winter, threshing. My Men earn between 10*s.* and 11*s.*, single Men as well as married.

You pay them by the Piece?

Yes.

Is that at the common Price of the Country, or do you pay them more than others?

I give them 1*s.* 6*d.* per Quarter.

Is that the common Price?

No, 1*s.* 4*d.*; but in consequence of the new Law I have risen the Price of Piece Work.

Then in point of fact you could have got it done at 1*s.* 4*d.*?

Yes, I dare say I could.

Is that for Barley and Oats?

For Barley alone.

If you could have got it done for 1*s.* 4*d.*, how can it be profitable to you to give 1*s.* 6*d.*?

To benefit the Labourer, and get the Corn out.

If you could have got your Corn out at 1*s.* 4*d.*, what Motive had you for giving 1*s.* 6*d.* per Quarter?

The Men would not thresh so much per Day at 1*s.* 4*d.* as at 1*s.* 6*d.*

You would wish to send your Corn quickly to Market?

When Markets are rising we wish to take advantage of them.

Do you mean to say you pay 1*s.* 6*d.* per Quarter for threshing all your Corn upon your Farm, when you can get it done for 1*s.* 4*d.*, as an economical Proceeding?

I have paid it all the Winter for Barley.

Can you say that that would be profitable to you as a Farmer; can you say that it would be profitable to you, if you can get your Corn threshed out at 1*s.* 4*d.* per Quarter, to pay 1*s.* 6*d.* for it?

I do not know that it would be so profitable to me if I did not take advantage of the Markets, and if it were not threshed as clean; but I have done that.

You say that the Employment you give those Men is profitable; how can it be a profitable Mode of laying out your Capital, when you give 1*s.* 6*d.* per Quarter, while others would come for 1*s.* 4*d.*?

Single Men would come for 1*s.* 4*d.*; but a married Man that has Four Children to maintain, and One of my Labourers, I should consider that it would injure him to give him only 1*s.* 4*d.* per Quarter.

But can it be profitable to you to have your Corn threshed out at 1*s.* 6*d.* a Quarter, when in point of fact you could get it done at 1*s.* 4*d.*?

I should save that extra Price from 1*s.* 4*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.*, 2*d.* per Quarter, by it being better done and quicker done.

Then, in that Way, you are in some Degree repaid for the Advance of the 2*d.*?

Yes.

Do you think you are fully repaid the 2*d.* a Quarter?

Yes.

Do you get more Bushels per Acre by that Means than your Neighbour does?

I get more threshed in a Day.

Mr. Joseph Cundle.

And you get it more cleanly threshed?
Yes.

Do you state that the Difference between the threshing of your Corn, for which you pay 1*s.* 6*d.* per Quarter, and that of Mr. Kingston's, for which he pays 1*s.* 4*d.*, would pay you for that 2*d.* a Quarter?
I should think it would.

Have you ever compared your Straw when threshed with that of Mr. Kingston's?
No; but I have compared my own Straw when they have been threshing by the Day, and when they have been threshing by the Quarter.

Have you ever compared the Straw, which they have threshed at 1*s.* 4*d.* with that which they have threshed at 1*s.* 6*d.*?
Yes.

Can you state whether the Difference between those Two threshings would be worth 2*d.* a Quarter?
Yes; because 2*d.* a Quarter is very little to be thrown away upon a Day's Work.

Then, supposing it to be the Case that you found that your Men were threshing in a careless Way, and you lost by that Means, could you not have got Labourers who would have threshed that Corn to your Satisfaction at 1*s.* 4*d.* per Quarter?
I cannot say.

Then do you think it a profitable Proceeding, as a Farmer, to pay 1*s.* 6*d.* for that which you could get done at 1*s.* 4*d.*?
I could not get it threshed so cleanly.

How do you know you could not, unless you have tried other Labourers?
I never tried any other Labourers.

But you have compared the Corn threshed at 1*s.* 6*d.* with that threshed at 1*s.* 4*d.*, and you think the Difference is worth 2*d.* a Quarter to you?
I think so.

As a general Principle, you conceive that the Payment of rather a better Rate of Wages enables you to secure more active and zealous Service?
Yes, I do.

Do you mean that threshing by the Piece you get as much done as by the Day?
More done when they are threshing by the Piece than by Day Work at 1*s.* 4*d.*

Do you reckon that it is threshed cleaner by the Day or by the Piece?
By the Piece.

With honest Men?
Yes.

If it be so, that when you pay 1*s.* 6*d.* you get so much more Corn than if you pay 1*s.* 4*d.* how is it that the Farmers have not found that out?
I believe other Farmers have found it out.

Then what is the Price; 1*s.* 6*d.* or 1*s.* 4*d.*?
1*s.* 6*d.* for the Quarter.

Then you pay no more than any other Farmer?
No; I do not know that I do, those who thresh by the Quarter.

When you state that Corn was usually threshed at 1*s.* 4*d.* a Quarter, what do you mean?
That is, by the Day; we reckon that a Man should thresh a Quarter of Corn for his Day's Work; we reckon that he should do that.

And the Master would object to his going away before he had finished threshing his Quarter?
No; he would not object to it, but he would complain that he had not threshed enough.

Mr. Joseph Cundle.

Do you mean to say that the Price of threshing a Quarter of Corn is 1*s.* 4*d.* or 1*s.* 6*d.*; you said you could get it done at 1*s.* 4*d.*?
I suppose I could, if I were to try.

When they thresh by the Day you reckon it 1*s.* 4*d.* a Quarter, and when they thresh by the Piece you reckon it 1*s.* 6*d.*?
Yes.

You only calculate it to be 1*s.* 4*d.* a Quarter, calculating it by the Wages per Day?
Yes.

Is it usual to give Allotments of Land to the Cottages in your Parish? What do you reckon is the average Profit derived by the Labourer from his Allotment?
That depends a great deal upon the Means of Cultivation; one will cultivate better than another; One Man told me that he had more than Forty Sacks upon his Quarter of an Acre.

What clear Profit do you think that he has upon that?
That depends upon the Price; Potatoes have been sold at 3*s.* 6*d.* and 4*s.* 6*d.*, and it also depends how much he may consume in his Family.

That is equivalent to Money; what is the clear Profit to him?
3*s.* and 3*s.* 6*d.* per Sack, and sometimes 4*s.*; that is the Price they sell at, but the clear Profit depends upon the Expense incurred in cultivating.

What Rent do they usually pay for this Quarter of an Acre?
After the Rate of 2*l.*; some not so much; I have known my own Labourers sell 3*l.* worth of Potatoes, besides what they had reserved for their own Use.

You were a Guardian when they brought this Memorial in favour of Isaac Watts?
Yes.

Have you been Two Years a Guardian?
Two Years and a Half.

Did you go out this Time on your own Wish?
I declined, not because Mr. Kearsey had wished me to sign this Memorial; I declined on this Account, that I could not sit there as a Guardian, and the rest of the Parish wishing to have those Children taken from them; and for the Reasons I have before mentioned.

You thought you were not a fair Representative of their Opinions?
Yes; I thought it was inconsistent. I think the Poor Law is working very well in our Parish; the Labourers are more attentive to their Employment.

Do Farmers employ more Labourers than they did?
None are out of Employment now.

Are the Farmers in the habit of employing more Labourers than they used to do?
Yes, taking it the whole Year through, because before the passing of the Act they were working upon the Roads during the Winter, but now there are none upon the Roads; since the Formation of the Union they have all found Employment.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Mr. J. Cannon.

Mr. JAMES CANNON is called in, and examined as follows:

WHERE do you live?
In the Parish of Shalbourne.

Are you a Farmer?
Yes.

Is that your only Occupation?
No; I am Farmer and Sheep Dealer, and Seedsman and Corn Dealer.

Mr. J. Cannon.

Do you mean to say that you buy and sell large Quantities of other Persons Sheep?
Yes; I sell by Commission and buy by Commission, and on my own Account.

What sized Farm have you?
120 Acres in the Parish of Shalbourne, and 96 in the Parish of Buttermere.

How far is that from the Parish of Shalbourne?
Two Miles.

Your Farms are separated Two Miles?
Yes.

Do you know any thing of a Memorial to the Poor Law Commissioners with respect to the Case of Isaac Watts, a Labourer, in the Parish of Shalbourne?
Yes.

Was that brought to you to be signed?
Yes.

Did you sign it?
No.

What Inducement was held out to you to sign this Paper; what did they say when they came to you?
They said, by giving the Guardians more discretionary Power the Poor would be better off.

Who brought the Paper to you?
It was Mr. Kingston and Mr. Kearsey.

When they came to you to sign the Paper did they say any thing to induce you to sign the Paper?
They did not.

Did they say it was a hard Thing for the poor Man to have so many Children to maintain, or any thing of that Sort?
Yes.

What did they say exactly?
I am not well prepared to answer that Question, for I took but very little Notice of it.

You refused at once, without entering into much Conversation with them?
No, I did not, for I promised to sign it; afterwards I went Home, and sat and thought at Home in the Evening about it, and then I declined.

Was there any thing else besides its being very hard upon the poor Man to have so large a Family to maintain said about its being an Advantage to you as a Rate-payer?
No; they did not say any thing of its being an Advantage, but I saw it would be a Disadvantage if you gave the Guardians more discretionary Power.

They did not say, it is much more expensive to keep a Man and his Wife and Seven Children in the Workhouse than it would be to keep only Two in the Workhouse, and make him maintain the Remainder?
Yes, they did.

Then they said both to you; they not only spoke to you of the Hardship to the Man himself, but of the Advantage to the Rate-payers, that they should have a fewer Number to maintain in the Workhouse?
Yes.

When you got Home you thought more about it, and refused to sign it?
Yes.

Why?
Because I thought it would bring back the old System, and that had been this: the great Farmers employed the Labourers in the Summer; as soon as the Summer had gone they turned them off, and we little Farmers had to keep them; and therefore I would not sign it.

Mr. J. Cannon.

Had your Refusal to sign any thing to do with the Knowledge of the Man's Circumstances, that he was able to maintain his Family?
No; I could not think that, unless Mr. Kingston would give him Piece Work, as I and some of my Neighbours do, and then he might.

Could he have maintained his Family at Piece Work; could he have got any Labour for his Children at that Time?
That would have rested entirely with his Master.

What Sort of Employment would it have been, if his Children had been employed?
When the Man was threshing, the Boy and Girl could have fed the Machine.

The Threshing Machine?
Yes.

But there were other People that did that, were there not?
Yes; some of the Men I dare say.

Then if the Children had been so employed, the Men could not have been also?
But how do the rest of us employ our Men? We keep them on; I have not turned a Man off.

Did Mr. Kingston turn a Man off?
Not till after this Memorial.

Then at the Time of his asking you to sign this he had not turned a Man off?
Yes; there was One turned off.

What for?
Put to Gravel-digging on the Highways.

How many Men does Mr. Kingston employ on his Farm?
He occupies 1,600 Acres of Land, and he told me he employed Forty Labourers, and I occupy 220, and employ Eight.

But then you have Two separate Farms?
Yes; but I drive but One Team of Horses, because I go to and fro Morning and Night.

You employ perhaps some of your Men to go to Market and take care of the Sheep that you buy?
Only One Man.

But do not you require more Men than a Farmer generally, on a Farm of that Size, on account of those Circumstances?
Yes, of course I do.

Is any of your Land Down-land?
Not much.

Do you grow the Seeds yourself which you sell?
No; I buy them.

But you having so many Occupations employ more Labourers than a Farmer would do?
I have not employed a labouring Man in sifting Corn; I have employed a Girl in sifting the Seed.

Have you constant Employment for that Girl?
No.

What do you pay her?
We pay her 6*d.* a Day.

Then the Reason for your refusing to sign this Paper was, that you were afraid of its bringing back the old System, but not that you thought the Man could maintain his Family in any thing like Comfort?
No.

Mr. J Cannon.

Do you know the Man?
Yes; but very little of him.

What Sort of a Character does he maintain in your Parish?
I never heard any thing amiss of the Man but once.

What was that?
I heard a neighbouring Farmer say that he told him to go to spreading Dung for his Brother-in-law, and he swore that his Brother-in-law might spread the Dung himself.

What was he doing at the Time?
He had been at Work for this other Brother-in-law, and he went to the Road after that.

When was that?
That was some Time in the Operation of the old Poor Law.

Then, except that, you know nothing against him?
No.

Do you know his Wife?
Yes, I know her.

What have you to say respecting her; is she a decent Sort of a Woman?
That I cannot tell; they neither of them are Natives of our Parish.

Do you live close to them?
I live about a Quarter Mile from them, or hardly that.

Are they well conducted People in general?
That I cannot tell.

We understand they have worked for a great Number of Years for Mr. Kingston?
Not a great Number of Years; I do not call Five or Six a great Number of Years.

It is stated to us that they have worked Seven?
Perhaps they might; I cannot say.

That is rather a Symptom of being a good useful Man, is it not?
I cannot say more of the Circumstances of the Man than I have said; I do not know much of him.

Is he a little Man?
Yes.

And is his Wife small?
She is very stout.

The Children?
The Children—I have seen Two or Three of them—they are not very healthy-looking Children.

The Man is an able-bodied Man?
Yes; he went to mowing with Mr. Kingston's Labourers last Year.

But you had no Reason with respect to the Man's Conduct, and so forth, for not signing the Paper, but because you feared that it would revert to the old System?
Yes.

What is the common Price of Wages in your Country?
8*s.* a Week the nominal Price; that is what they have, except from Farmers who are willing to meet their Case. I employ most of mine at Piece Work, and they earn 9*s.* a Week and 10*s.* a Week. When Mr. Hall, the Poor Law Commissioner, came to my House, I paid them 10*s.* a Week,—the very Night that he was at my House,—and I paid them 10*s.* again.

What Sort of Piece Work?
Threshing Wheat by the Quarter, or Barley by the Quarter, or any thing.

Mr. J. Cannon.

What do you pay?
If we give 1*s.* 4*d.* a Day for Day Work, we give 1*s.* 4*d.* a Quarter for Barley, unless it threshes bad; and if it threshes bad, we give them more. I give 1*s.* 6*d.* for my Chevalier, and for my Barley 1*s.* 4*d.*

Is the Chevalier Barley worse to thresh than the other?
Yes; it does not clean so well. The Man told me, (I am not at home every Day) "I cannot clean the Barley, Master." I said, "Very well; do not throw it out in the Straw, and whatever it is worth I will give you;" and he said, when he had threshed, "I shall be glad if you will give me 1*s.* 6*d.*;" and I said, "So I will, if you have threshed it clean."

And Wheat?
1*s.* 4*d.*

Is that the usual Price?
Yes.

If you thresh by the Day, at what Price can you get it done?
1*s.* 4*d.* a Sack, unless it yields bad; then when they have a Chance to work by the Piece they will earn more Money.

Have you any Labourers that you pay by the Day at all?
Yes, I have a Shepherd; I cannot let him on Piece Work all the Winter Part of the Year; I give him Day Pay in the Summer Part; he has his Boy; I use him in Summer in Turnip-hoeing and reaping, and give him that Chance.

You did not do that before the new Law?
No, I could not, certainly, because the high Poor Rates would have ruined me.

What had that to do with this Boy going to work?
If we had a high Poor Rate I could not have paid so much Labour; there is so much Money to be expended on the Farm, and if it goes to one it cannot go to the other.

Did you not employ a Boy in doing the same Work before the new Poor Law came in?
No, I should not have done it. I never commenced farming till just as the new Law came into operation; it was my Father's Business before.

Is your Shepherd a yearly Servant?
I never made any Agreement with him; he lives in my Cottage House, and of course I give him many Privileges, because I am not at that Farm, and I do not live there.

Is he engaged by the Year?
No.

Are any of your Men yearly Servants?
The head Carter and under Carter.

Do you employ any Lads, or any unmarried young Men?
No; I employ Ploughboys.

At what Age do you call them Boys?
The youngest Boy I employ is between Nine and Ten Years of Age.

When they come to Eighteen Years of Age, do you call them Men, and pay them Men's Wages?
That depends upon what they are; some are capable of earning more Money, and some are not.

You do not employ any young unmarried Men?
No; I have my regular Servants; I have not changed One since I have been Master.

Is it the Practice much in your Neighbourhood to employ Lads of Eighteen or Nineteen, and give them lower Wages?
Mr. Kingston has done that more than any other Farmer.

Mr. J. Cannon.

Are there many boarded and lodged with the Farmers Servants, or are they almost always at daily Wages?
Daily Wages.

The Poor Law Commissioner came to your House to make this Inquiry?
Yes, he did.

What Servants have you in your House?
I have only a Maid Servant in my House, and a Boy, who looks after my Nag, but he goes Home to his Father's to sleep at Night.

Mr. Hall told us that there was a young Girl employed about your House?
A Servant Girl.

And another Girl?
Only those Girls that sift the Seed, my Carter's Daughters; and they do Day Work besides. We have gotWinnowing, sometimes Two Days in the Week, and sometimes not, and all other Things that we want done; then I have another friendless Girl; I employ her sometimes in Winnowing, and turning the Fan, and any thing I have to do, Rick-taking-in, and cleaning up any thing.

You appear to employ a larger Proportion of Labourers upon your Land than most of the Farmers in that Neighbourhood?
Yes; I do it because I am willing to make all the Labour I can. What is a poor Man to do after he has harvested with me, if I turn him off, as he has no Poor Rate to go to?

You find the Labour profitable?
Yes; I think by cutting my Hay for my Sheep I save Twenty per Cent.

Were you yourself to occupy some of the larger Farms in the Parish, you would have no Difficulty, if you had Capital to devote to that Purpose, in employing the same proportionate Number of Labourers you now employ?
Not the least.

You conceive there is ample Room for an ameliorated System in that respect?
Yes, to the Advantage of both Employer and Labourer.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned to Monday next, Twelve o'Clock.

Die Lunæ, 14° *Maii* 1838.

The Lord WHARNCLIFFE in the Chair.

RICHARD HALL Esquire is called in, and further examined as follows:

HAVE you lately visited the Workhouse at Lambourne?
I have.

Did you observe the Children?
I did.

Did they appear to be in good Health?
In perfectly good Health.

You have no Reason to apprehend that the Children have not as much Food as they wish to have?
No; I have every Reason to believe that the contrary is the Case, that they have as much Food as is good for them.

Do you happen to know whether they have ever left any of their Messes, as being more than they can eat?
I cannot say that I have known such a Circumstance happen at Lambourne; but the Children appeared to be in good Health; and in answer to my Inquiries, the Master and Matron always said that they were all well, and that there was no Case of Illness among them. I questioned the Children themselves, and they all appeared to be satisfied.

Did you question the Children apart from the Master or Matron?
Yes.

Did they express themselves satisfied with the Quantity as well as the Quality of the Food?
They did.

When you went to Shalbourne did you go to the House of Mr. Cannon?
I did.

And there you were joined by Mr. Cundle and Mr. Kingston, or did you find them there?
I went with Mr. Cundle. I forget whether Mr. Kingston joined us there, or whether he joined us just before we got there.

Was there much Discussion between those Two Individuals upon the Subject of this Memorial in your Presence?
Yes; it was spoken about.

Did they seem to speak with Irritation towards each other upon that Subject, as if there was Feeling on both Sides in the Parish which was rather warm?
I should hardly say that it amounted to Irritation; they spoke with perfect Civility on both Sides, but there was evidently a Difference of Opinion.

Is there any Labour in the Workhouse?
There is; the Inmates of the Workhouse are put to work.

Are they all put to work?
They are all kept at Work, as far as their Capacity will admit of it.

That is, as far as their Strength will allow?
Yes.

Richard Hall, Esq.

What is the Nature of the Work?
A great deal of the Work is the Work of the House, that Work which always arises out of an Establishment of such a Magnitude as a Union Workhouse; and they are also employed in cultivating the Ground which belongs to the Workhouse.

How many Acres have they?
I cannot state the precise Quantity; it is a good-sized Garden.

Then there is no manufacturing Labour, in the Way of Hemp, or any thing of that Sort?
No; nothing but the Work about the House; and also for the able-bodied Male Paupers there is a Mill for grinding Corn, worked by the Hand.

Does that employ Half of them?
The last Time I was there the Mill had not been employed for Five Weeks previously, because there was no Strength in the House to turn the Handle.

When were you last at the Workhouse at Lambourne?
Last Tuesday.

Were there any able-bodied Paupers in the House at that Time?
There were Three able-bodied Men.

Have you yet ascertained whether that Letter which appears in the Correspondence was addressed to you or to the Clerk of the Union?
It was directed to the Clerk of the Union, and by an Error in the Print, or in the Commissioners Office, it is headed in the Correspondence as addressed to me.

How came you to go to this Union?
I was directed by a private Letter from the Commissioners to go.

What other Matters were communicated to you besides that Letter which you were directed to attend to?
Merely a general Instruction to attend.

Was this Memorial communicated to you?
It was not communicated to me; my Attention was drawn towards it in the private Letter.

Was Mr. Chadwick's Reply communicated?
Not communicated.

Was the Letter from Mr. Rowland communicated?
Yes.

Was the Answer to Mr. Rowland communicated?
No; it was not.

Had that come to your Knowledge previously to the Time of your sending your Reply to the Commissioners?
Not from the Office; but I heard that it had been sent. It did come to my Knowledge, and I think it was before I made my own Reply.

Have you that Letter which you received from the Commissioners?
I have it not with me.

Did not you think it extraordinary that they did not send you a Copy of the Memorial?
I was referred to the Newspapers for it.

Is not the Ground upon which the Board of Guardians refuse to relieve Persons out of the Workhouse the Order of the Poor Law Commissioners?
It is.

Is it Part of the Order of the 1st of January 1837?
No; it is a distinct Document, addressed by the Poor Law Commissioners to the Board of Guardians of the Hungerford Union; they send it at different Times to different Unions, as they think the Circumstances of the different Unions admit of the Order being enforced.

Richard Hall, Esq.

Is not Clause Seventy-seven in that Letter addressed to the Board of Guardians the Clause under which they act?—"In all Cases which may hereafter arise it will be necessary to adhere strictly to the Provisions of the Statute of the Forty-third of Elizabeth in administering to 'the necessary Relief of the lame, impotent, old, blind, and such other among them being poor and not able to work,' as well as in relieving the Children and the able-bodied. By the Words of that Statute you are only entitled to relieve those capable of working 'who have no Means to maintain them.' None, therefore, are legally entitled to Relief who have any Property or any Means, or who are not in a State of absolute Destitution, and in danger of perishing for Want, if Relief be withheld. The further descriptive Words of the Enactment for setting to Work 'all Persons using no ordinary and daily Trade of Life to get their Living by,' must be taken to exclude from Relief all Cases of Persons who are in Work, and 'who do use an ordinary and daily Trade of Life;' in short, to prohibit all Relief in aid of Wages."

I rather think that the Document to which your Lordship alludes is an instructional Letter which has been issued to some Boards of Guardians, but not to all, and has not the Validity of an Order under the Hands and Seals of the Poor Law Commissioners.

Has that Order been sent to all the Unions under your Superintendence?
Not to all; it was sent to the Hungerford Union on the 16th of May 1836.

When was the Union formed?
It was formed in April 1835.

Has that Order been volunteered to any Union, or been sent to Unions in consequence of some Circumstances arising which have produced the Order?
It has been issued to a Union when, in the Opinion of the Commissioners, the Union was in a Condition to carry the Order into effect.

Do you mean generally that it has been done after a certain Period of Time?
Not after any certain Period of Time, but at a greater or less Period after the Formation of the Union; according to Circumstances.

In reply to some Questions addressed to the Commissioners by the Unions?
I should say rather, in consequence of Information received of the State of the Union, which the Commissioners derive through the constant Correspondence which is kept up between them and the Unions.

Have any of the Unions in your District applied for the Order of their own Accord?
I do not recollect that any one has applied for the Order.

Can you state the Words of the Order?
I should have wished to refer to the Document itself, but in the Absence of the Document I would state that it is to this Effect: after rescinding certain Regulations respecting Relief to able-bodied Males, previously issued, it goes on to declare, that after a Day fixed no Relief, excepting in Cases of Sickness, Accident, or other urgent Necessity, shall be given to an able-abodied Male Pauper between the Ages of Sixteen and Sixty, or any Part of his Family dependent upon him, unless it be within the Workhouse of the Union, that is, as well as I recollect, the Purport of the Order.

That appears to refer only to Male Paupers?
The Order applies only to able-bodied Male Paupers.

Therefore the Guardians of the Hungerford Union are in the habit of relieving Female Paupers out of the Workhouse?
Yes.

But to some Unions has not an Order been sent not to relieve able-bodied Females out of the House?
In Two Unions in my District Females have been included in the Order.

But that is not the general Practice?
No.

Richard Hall, Esq.

Was there any particular Reason for including them in those Orders?
One Case was the Cookham Union, where it was done in order to assimilate the Practice in the Union to what it had been before the Poor Law Amendment Act in the larger Portion of the Union. The other Case was the Bradfield Union, where the Order was issued at the special Request of the Board of Guardians, in order to sanction and confirm the Practice which they had arrived at without the Order.

Had they arrived at that Practice since the passing of the new Poor Law, or previously?
Since the passing of the new Law in the Bradfield Union, and previously to the passing of the new Law in the Cookham Union.

Then the Ground on which the Board of Guardians refuses to take those Children into the Workhouse is, that they are considered under the Poor Law Amendment Act Part of the Pauper's Family?
It is.

In stating, on a former Day, the Objections to there being a Discretion with the Guardians to give Relief to Paupers out of the Workhouse, you said that One of the Objections was, that a Suspicion of Favouritism would arise, and that in one Parish the Guardians might have a Favourite, and that they might order the giving of Relief to that Favourite out of the Workhouse, when it would be refused in other Cases and in other Parishes; does not that equally apply to Female as to Male Paupers?
In answering that Question I should wish to guard myself against giving such a Reply as would lead the Committee to suppose that I did not think that the Time must arrive when it would be better to include the Female Paupers under the same System of Management as is now applied only to Male Paupers; but as it was intended to proceed by degrees in restricting Out-door Relief, it was thought good to proceed with Males, before the strict System was made to include Females also.

But in point of fact would not the same Suspicion of Favouritism apply to the Discussions with respect to the Relief of Female Paupers as of Male Paupers?
I think it would, to a certain Extent.

Is not, however, the Class of Female able-bodied Paupers, of necessity, a very much smaller Class than the Class of Male able-bodied Paupers?
Yes, clearly, because a great Portion of the able-bodied Women are included in the Families of able-bodied Men.

It could only comprise the Class of Widows with Families, and single Women with Bastard Children?
Yes; that would be nearly all. There are also some Cases of Women who are deserted by their Husbands, and Women whose Husbands are under Punishment for Crime.

But there are in the Hungerford Union Applications by able-bodied Females for Relief out of the Workhouse, which are taken under the Consideration of the Board of Guardians, and decided on the Merits of each Case?
Certainly.

You also said that those Cases would lead to Discussion among the Members of the Board of Guardians, which you think would be inconvenient; does not that Difficulty arise in the Case of Female Paupers as well as of Male?
Yes.

Is it not one of the very Purposes for which the Boards of Guardians are constituted, to discuss particular Cases?
Yes.

Then what Inconvenience could there be in the Discussion of a Case?
I think, if I recollect rightly, I adopted the Terms in which the Question was proposed to me in answering those Two Questions; and I understood the Term "Discussion" to mean unpleasant Discussion between the Members of the Board, which might lead to personal Feeling and Ill-will between the Members of the Board.

Would not that apply equally to the Cases of Females as of Male Paupers?
I am inclined to think not. I think that the Interests, or supposed Interests, of individual Members of the Board would be more involved in giving Relief to able-bodied Male Paupers than to able-bodied Females; able-bodied Males being, for the most Part, Labourers in the Employment, or who might come into the Employment of the Members of the Board.

You think, then, that a Suspicion might arise, that the Relief was asked, not by way of Relief to the Pauper, but as an Advantage to the Person employing him?
I think something of that Kind might arise or be said?

You also said that there would be a Variety in the Divisions of the different Boards of Guardians; would not that Objection apply equally to the Cases of Female as of Male Paupers?
I know that that Objection does apply; I hear it urged now. I have it charged against the System, that there is a Discrepancy in the Administration of different Unions, with regard to Females, where they are left without any Rule.

Have you found any great Inconvenience from that?
I have found Inconvenience from it. I have Reason to believe that the People themselves have been rendered discontented in one Union by finding themselves differently treated from Persons similarly circumstanced in another; and I have known Guardians who have thought that the strict System was the better complain very much that an undue Burden of Responsibility was thrown upon them, inasmuch as, when they wished to adhere to a Practice which in a neighbouring Union was entirely disregarded, they found the Difficulty of administering that Species of Relief upon their own Discretion so great, that they were almost under the Necessity of relinquishing that which they considered to be the best Mode of administering it.

When a Female Pauper applies for Relief out of Doors, the Guardians inquire into her Means of maintaining herself and any Children she may have?
They do.

Then Discussions will arise as to whether those Means of Maintenance are sufficient for her and her Children?
Yes.

Have you ever witnessed any considerable Inconvenience from making those Inquiries into the Circumstances of the Females?
I think the Inconvenience has consisted mainly in the Uncertainty in which, after all, the Case was involved.

Supposing that, instead of Out-door Relief, some of the Children of the Families of Out-door Paupers were taken into the Workhouse, in your Opinion does the same Objection apply to that that you have stated with respect to giving Out-door Relief either in Money or in Victuals?
I think a great Part of the Objection would apply to that Mode of giving Relief which applies to the System of giving Out-door Relief; I think also that there are peculiar and additional Objections to that Mode of giving Relief, which I believe I stated in my previous Examination.

Does not the Forty-third of Elizabeth, in the First Part of the First Clause, admit of that Description of Relief?—"And they shall take Order from Time to Time, by and with the Consent of Two or more Justices of Peace, for setting to work the Children of all such whose Parents shall not, by the Church-wardens and Overseers or the greater Part of them, be thought able to keep and maintain their Children."
There is no Doubt that it does.

Supposing that you took those Children into the Workhouse, and gave them Work, would there be any Departure in that from the Forty-third of Elizabeth?
I suppose that the Practice would not be illegal, so far as its Legality would depend upon that Clause of the Forty-third of Elizabeth.

Richard Hall, Esq.

Does that Clause of the Forty-third of Elizabeth contemplate the Workhouse at all?

I think that is impossible to say.

Whether it contemplates the Workhouse or not, it contemplates the taking of the Children from the Parents who cannot maintain them, and setting them to work, in some Mode or other?

Then it assumes that which we consider to be questionable in the Cases, whether the Parents can support their Children or not.

Would not that be a very proper Subject for the Consideration of the Board of Guardians, whether they were able to maintain their Children or not?

Certainly.

What did the Memorial from Shalbourne ask for?

They asked to be allowed generally the Discretion, or rather they expressed an Opinion; they did not ask themselves to be allowed a Discretion, but they expressed an Opinion that Parts of Families should be relieved when Parents were not able to maintain them.

Is it not your Opinion that the only perfect Test of that Inability is the ordering a Man and all the Family into the Workhouse?

That is my Opinion, and appears to be the Opinion of those who have framed the Orders.

Would it not be, to a certain Degree, a Test also to say to the Man, You shall not have any Relief yourself out of Doors, but we will take those Children into the Workhouse, and separate them from you?

I should fear that that Test would cease to operate in those Cases precisely where neither the Board of Guardians nor any of those who would relax the Law in favour of the Labourer would wish to show any Indulgence, namely, to those Persons of indifferent Character and of irregular Habits, who would not in the least regret parting with their Children.

But would it not in your Opinion in many Cases operate as a considerable Inducement to Persons to try to do without Relief, if their Children were to be taken into the Workhouse?

I think for a Season it would, but that Feeling would wear off.

Supposing that you had tested the Destitution of the Parents by their coming with their Wives and their Children into the Workhouse, do you not think that it would be very reasonable, when that had been proved, that Relief should be given afterwards, by allowing some of the Children to continue in, without forcing the Parents and the rest of the Family to stay?

I think you would diminish the Efficacy of your Test by so doing, because I can conceive of Families who would for a Time, and at particular Seasons of the Year, submit to the Discipline and the Restraints of the Workhouse, and who would then go out, and very willingly leave their Children behind them.

Though you say it would be very liable to Abuse with respect to Parents who do not care much for their Families, do you think it would be liable to Abuse with respect to Parents who have Affection for their Children?

I know that there are Cases where that System has been tried in some Districts,—I am not speaking of Districts under the Operation of the Poor Law Amendment Act, but previously,—I know there are Places where Relief has been administered upon that System, and I know that the Number of Children sent into the Workhouse by their Parents was not great; but, viewing the Workhouses as they are now, knowing how completely all their internal Arrangements are made public, and knowing exactly what Treatment the Children receive within those Workhouses, I cannot but apprehend that the Feeling of Repugnance to parting with their Children would grow weaker and weaker, and very materially diminish in a comparatively short Time.

Will you name those Places where that System has been tried before the passing of the Act?

I know that it was tried at Hatfield; in that Parish the Vestry would have relieved Families, by taking Part of the Children into the House.

Do you think that well-conducted Parents would feel it to be a greater Degradation to be forced to come into the House with their Wives and their Families, or to send in Two or Three of their Children of very large Families?
I think they would consider the Degradation greater if they were obliged to go in with their whole Family.

Supposing the Guardians were thoroughly persuaded that the Family were too large for the Man to maintain, does not it seem in that Instance a very cruel Thing to force him into that Degradation, when the Fact of Relief being absolutely wanted is undoubted?
That involves what I consider to be the great Difficulty, namely, the ascertaining upon what a Family of a certain Size is to be maintained.

The Question is put upon the Supposition that you are quite convinced that the Test had proved the Fact that they are in a State of Destitution; is it fit, then, that they should be put into that State of Destitution, when the Test has satisfactorily proved that Fact?
I believe the Question supposes a Case in which a Family has received an Offer for Admission into the Workhouse, has availed itself of the Offer, and resided in the Workhouse, as occurred in the Case of Watts; I should adduce that Case as an Instance. It was supposed that the Case of Watts was one of those in which the Earnings of the Family were not sufficient to support the Family; he went into the Workhouse at the Instigation and Persuasion of his Master, and remained there a Fortnight; I should myself, knowing the Discipline and Arrangement of that Workhouse, look upon the Circumstance of his leaving it at the End of a Fortnight as a Proof that he was convinced that he could at that Moment, or that he would at no very distant Moment, be able to support himself and his Wife and Family upon the Wages he received.

At the same Time that their going into the Workhouse was a Proof that at that Time he was not able to maintain himself, his Wife, and Family?
It was a Proof that at that Time he had a Preference for a Residence in the Workhouse.

That Preference arising from the Difficulty of maintaining his Family out of the Workhouse?
Arising from the Insufficiency of their Maintenance.

Is it not also important to consider that he was recommended to go into the Workhouse by his Master?
I took care to mention that in my Answer to the previous Question.

He having applied to his Master, and told him that he could not obtain a sufficient Livelihood?
Yes; and it should, I think, also be remembered, that he had before received an Offer for Admission into the Workhouse, and had declined availing himself of it.

His Refusal to go in before having proved how very reluctant he was to do so?
Yes.

Did you not state that he had very little Furniture in his Cottage, and that when his Children were turned out of the Workhouse, they were turned out in a very ragged State, and that you supplied them with Clothes?
I did not state that; I stated that the younger ones were very ill clothed when I saw them.

When did you see them; did you see them when they left the Workhouse?
I saw them after they had been out for some Time.

Were they turned out?
They were allowed to go out, upon the Application of the Father.

They went out of the Workhouse on the 10th of February; at what Time did you see them?
I was there, as well as I recollect, on the 29th of March.

Considering the extreme Repugnance of the Labourers to enter the Workhouse themselves, do you think it likely that they should be desirous, without urgent Necessity, of sending any Part of their Family into the Workhouse?
I think that when the Labourers become more acquainted with the internal

Richard Hall, Esq.

Arrangements of the Workhouses, their Repugnance to send in a Part of their Family, which I grant exists at present, will be very materially diminished; and I perhaps may go on to state, that I have always, when I have visited the Workhouses, which I do very frequently, inquired of the Parents in what Condition they believe their Children to be in the Workhouse; whether they were as healthy there as at home; whether they were as well off, and, in fact, generally as to their Condition; and I never recollect to have received an Answer expressing otherwise than perfect Satisfaction with the Condition of the Children. I have asked those Questions in the Presence of the Master and Matron, and when they were not present, and in Places where I am sure I was not known myself.

Will you have the goodness to refer to the Memorial from Shalbourne, and you will see that what they ask is this: "We earnestly entreat you therefore to take these Cases into your serious Consideration, and beg you will be pleased to rescind the aforesaid Order, and give the Guardians discretionary Power to admit a Part of a large Family of such Children into the Workhouse without their Parents." Referring to these Words, and referring to the Forty-third of Elizabeth, under what Authority do the Poor Law Commissioners refuse to give that Relief?

I apprehend that they derive their Authority from the Fifty-sixth Section of the Poor Law Amendment Act:—"And be it further enacted, That from and after the passing of this Act all Relief given to or on account of any Child or Children under the Age of Sixteen, not being blind or deaf or dumb, shall be considered as given to the Husband of such Wife or to the Father of such Child or Children, as the Case may be; and any Relief given to or on account of any Child or Children, under the Age of Sixteen, of any Widow shall be considered as given to such Widow."

Do you consider that to repeal that Part of the Forty-third of Elizabeth which has been read to you?

I consider that this enables the Poor Law Commissioners to regard any Relief given to such Children of a Father as given to him; and by the Ninth of George the First an Offer of Maintenance within the Workhouse is made tantamount to such Relief as was directed to be given by the Forty-third of Elizabeth.

Will you turn to the Fifteenth Clause of the Poor Law Amendment Act? That is, the Clause giving a general Power to the Commissioners.

Will you read it?

The Fifteenth Clause of the Poor Law Amendment Act enacts, "And be it further enacted, That from and after the passing of this Act the Administration of Relief to the Poor throughout England and Wales, according to the existing Laws or such Laws as shall be force at the Time being, shall be subject to the Direction and Controul of the said Commissioners."

That is, according to the Laws that shall be in force at the Time being?
Yes.

The Forty-third of Elizabeth is in force, and not repealed by that Act?
Certainly.

Therefore they must still administer the Law according to the Statute of the Forty-third of Elizabeth?

Yes; so far as it is not repealed or modified by subsequent Acts.

Does the Fifty-sixth Clause repeal that Part of the Act which directs Overseers to set to work Children whose Parents are not able to maintain them?

I believe it does, in this Way: the Forty-third of Elizabeth directed the Overseers to set Children to work, by way of giving them Relief; the Fifty-sixth Section of the Poor Law Amendment Act states, that Relief given to Children shall be Relief given to the Parents; the Ninth of George the First states, that the Refusal of an Offer for Admission into the Workhouse shall bar any Applicant from his Right to any other Relief; and therefore I consider that the Offer to admit the Man with his Family into the Workhouse satisfies all the Conditions of the Law.

Richard Hall, Esq.

And you think that the Children have no Right to Maintenance under that Clause of the Forty-third of Elizabeth?
No other Maintenance than that which is offered to the whole Family in the Workhouse, provided the Commissioners restrict the Relief to Workhouse Relief.

You think it takes away from the Children the Right of being maintained according to this Clause of the Forty-third of Elizabeth, unless the whole Family are taken in with them?
I do think so.

Supposing that to be the Case, was that Request on the Part of the Parishioners of Shalbourne in any Degree contrary to the Principle of the Forty-third of Elizabeth; whatever it might be with respect to the new Poor Law Amendment Act, was there any thing in Spirit contrary to the Statute of the Forty-third of Elizabeth?
Perhaps not.

And one of the great Principles of the Poor Law Amendment Act was to bring the Relief of the Poor back again to the Principles of the Forty-third of Elizabeth?
Certainly; to those that were the great Principles of that Act.

Then the great Principle of that Act was the Care with which the Relief was guarded, as to the Description of Persons who were to receive that Relief?
The great Principle, as I conceive, to which constant Reference was made is, that Relief to Persons able to work should be always given on condition of their working; that they should be set to work.

Then this Clause, of setting the Children of Persons who cannot maintain them to work, is only another Mode of insisting upon Work in exchange for Relief?
Yes, certainly.

Then taking all those Circumstances into consideration, is there any thing in that Request made by the Parishioners of Shalbourne that is in any degree contrary to the Principles of the Act of the Forty-third of Elizabeth?
No; I should say perhaps there was not; but even supposing it were so, I do not see such distinct Reference made to the Principles of the Forty-third of Elizabeth as to govern the Construction of the new Poor Law by a Provision in that Act.

Do you mean to give it clearly as your Opinion that the Fifty-sixth Clause of the new Poor Law does, in point of fact, repeal that Provision in the Forty-third of Elizabeth?
Yes; in my Opinion it does.

Do you apprehend that that Clause in the Forty-third of Elizabeth at all refers to Children who are too young to work?
The Words are, "setting to work Children."

Therefore it would not apply to Children who are too young to work?
No.

You have stated that you do not think the Request of the Rate-payers of Shalbourne to be repugnant in Principle to the Forty-third of Elizabeth, do you apprehend that there would be any great Facility in reconciling the Practice of it in the respective Parishes to the Principle,—that it would be easy to carry that into effect with the present Machinery?
If it were an established Principle that the Children of large Families who were able to work were to be separated from their Families, and set to work by the Boards of Guardians, I believe it would be very difficult indeed to carry that Principle into effect.

It is not the Boards of Guardians, but the Overseers, who are to set them to work in their respective Parishes?
That, I believe, would be practically impossible.

Richard Hall, Esq.

You are aware that certain Acts of Parliament are expressly repealed by this Poor Law Amendment Act?

Yes; I am.

That being the Case, do you think that any other Acts are repealed than those that are so named?

No, certainly; no other Acts are repealed.

In one of your former Answers you stated that you consider that the Effect of the Poor Law Amendment Act is to place the Law as it stood before the passing of the Thirty-sixth of George the Third; to carry the Law back to the Ninth of George the First?

I referred to the Ninth of George the First as establishing the Principle that an Offer of Relief in the Workhouse bars the Claim which a Pauper had under the Forty-third of Elizabeth.

Are you aware that that has been repealed since?

I believe that it is still in force.

In point of fact, are you aware of any Instance in which Two or more Children of able-bodied Labourers have been, with the Consent of the Commissioners, received into the Workhouse?

There have been One or Two Instances within my District; but then there have been other Circumstances, coupled with the large Size of the Man's Family, to warrant the Exception from the general Rule.

There is a Question and Answer in the Evidence taken before the Committee of the House of Commons referring to that Fact, in the Examination of Mr. Gulson: "Do you think the Labourer will, generally speaking, suffer his Children to be parted from him?" "No, generally he would not; he might in very extreme Cases. I might say that by way of meeting the Pressure of such Families, I have advised Boards of Guardians to do that, and have written to the Commissioners to ask their Consent to it; but I have never yet known a Man avail himself of it for One Fortnight; I have known him avail himself of it for a Week, but he has fetched them out at the End of that Time;" that would imply that it has been consented to, and that Children of able-bodied Labourers have been received into the Workhouse?

Yes; I am careful, of course, to restrict my Answer to my own Experience; there have not been such Cases in my own District, but I have heard that such Cases have occurred in other Districts.

At the Time of the first Formation of the Union did you give the Guardians who were assembled, or the People in that Neighbourhood, an Expectation that Relief of this Sort would be given, by taking Children into the Workhouse?

I did in some Places.

Was it not under the Order of the Commissioners to be for a limited Time, till the Act came into more complete and perfect Operation?

When I led them to form such an Expectation I did it, believing that for a certain Period it might be the best Step that could be taken towards the Introduction of a more strict System.

Did you do that by the Authority or Consent of the Commissioners?

Not with their distinct Authority.

In point of fact, did they not justify the Expectation that was so held out by allowing such Relief to be given for a certain Period?

Certainly; in fact the same Discretion was allowed to the Guardians as to the Relief of able-bodied Paupers, in all the Unions, for a considerable Space of Time, and is now allowed in a good many of them, as they have with regard to aged and infirm Paupers.

The Commissioners were induced to withdraw their Permission, and to send the restrictive Order, in consequence of the Reports they received of the State in which the Union was, and the Way in which the Act had worked?

Yes.

Was it understood by the Parties that it was to be a temporary Indulgence, or a permanent one?

I cannot say.

Richard Hall, Esq.

What is your Opinion upon that Subject?
I think that it was differently understood by different Persons; I think that there were Parties who believed that the Indulgence would be allowed to continue for an indefinite Time; I believe others understood that it would be allowed to continue for a short Time, until the System was brought into what they call perfect Operation.

You have stated that it was intended to proceed by Degrees in restricting Out-door Relief; are you aware to what Extent it is ultimately intended to enforce that Restriction?
I have no other Means of knowing that than any one else.

Have you ever heard from the Poor Law Commissioners to what Extent they mean to carry ultimately that Principle?
Never officially. I really believe that I have no other Means of forming an Opinion than any one possesses who has considered the Act of Parliament, and the Orders which have been issued.

Upon what Principle do you consider that the Forty-third of Elizabeth is repealed by the Fifty-sixth Section of the Poor Law Amendment Act?
I may, of course, make a very imperfect Statement of the Way in which Acts of Parliament are to be construed; but I gave my Answer upon the Supposition that, when a direct Course was marked out and authorized in an Act of Parliament which was found to be incompatible with the Provisions of previous Acts of Parliament, the last Act of Parliament was to be observed.

Does an Act virtually repeal another except it be impossible to reconcile the one with the other; is it not a Rule that an Act is not virtually repealed except by a subsequent Act that is so inconsistent with it that is impossible to reconcile the one with the other?
It is well known, of course, whether that is the Rule or not.

Are you a Lawyer?
I never practised.

Have you studied the Law?
I was called to the Bar.

Do you consider that that which has been done by the Poor Law Amendment Act is completely to get rid of the former Act, and to allow the Commissioners to act in direct Opposition to the Provisions of the Statute of Elizabeth?
I never before had my Attention so closely drawn to the Legality of those Orders, of which I was only required by my Office to superintend the Execution, and I am not prepared to say whether or not the Commissioners are justified in having issued them.

You have said that you consider the Ninth of George the First as having an Effect upon those Proceedings; do you not know that the Ninth of George the First is not impliedly but expressly repealed by the Statute of the Thirty-sixth of George the Third?
That Statute, the Thirty-sixth George the Third, is repealed by the Poor Law Amendment Act.

You do not consider that when the Poor Law Commissioners have issued an Order to prevent Out-door Relief being given, they mean to preclude the Boards of Guardians from giving as much Relief as they think fit to able-bodied Labourers, if they are ill?
Certainly not; such Cases are expressly excepted.

Do you not know, in Practice, that in your own District a large Amount of Out-door Relief is now given in Cases of Illness?
I know that a very large Amount is given.

Therefore, when Persons for the Purpose of agitating the public Mind say that Out-door Relief is entirely got rid of, that is not true, as far as Sickness is concerned?
I am sure that the Out-door Relief given in Sickness to all Classes of Paupers is very extensive indeed.

Richard Hall, Esq.

Would it not be physically impossible, in Cases of Illness, to administer any Relief but Out-door Relief?

Not in all such Cases.

Would it in One Case out of Ten? Do you not know a great many Cases in which the Labourer has hurt his Hand, and in which he can walk Ten Miles?

Such Cases are very common. I was going to take the liberty of stating, that in the Month of April, in the Hungerford Union, there were at One Time Eighty-nine able-bodied Men receiving Out-door Relief, either on account of Sickness in their own Persons, or in that of some Members of their Family; the Number of able-bodied Women receiving Relief at One Time in the Hungerford Union in the same Month, was 167; the total Number of Cases receiving Out-door Relief in that Union was 970; and the whole Number of Cases receiving Relief in the Union was 1,150; therefore, of 1,150 Cases of Pauperism, only 180 were receiving Relief in the Workhouse.

In the Workhouse of the Hungerford Union, when there is a Family in the Workhouse, are the Parents allowed to see their Children daily?

Daily; frequently during the Day.

Are they obliged to have Permission from a Guardian, or from any other Party, to see their own Children?

The Children who are old enough go to School in the Workhouse; and the Parents see them as often as is consistent with the Arrangements made for their Instruction in the School.

Is it left to the Parents Discretion to see the Children as often as they think proper when they are not at School?

No; not entirely.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Mr. John Lewin.

Mr. JOHN LEWIN is called in, and examined as follows:

WHERE do you reside?

Wickham Market, Suffolk.

What are you?

A Farmer and Miller.

Have you had some Correspondence with Lord Stanhope touching some Cases of alleged Suffering under the new Poor Law Amendment Act.

Yes, I have.

You have mentioned several Cases; do you know those of your own Knowledge, or have you received Information about them from other Persons?

From the Parties themselves generally; there may be some Exceptions.

You speak of Three poor Widows who were left with Twenty-four Children: They report, "That they were content with their Allowance, which was just enough to find them Bread, under the old Poor Law, but they had the Opportunity of earning a few Pence at Times, when they and their Children could get a little Employment, which enabled them to pay Rent, buy Clothes, Firing, &c., and never was taken advantage of by the Parish Officers, nor any Part of it deducted from their weekly Allowance; but, under the Practice of the new Poor Law, they have never had Bread enough for more than Four or Five Days out of the Seven, and if they or their Families earned 6*d.*, or 1*s.*, or 2*s.*, it was deducted from their very cruel short Allowance; in fact, when Two of the poor Children had gone to work, and earned only 1*s.* 4*d.*, 2*s.* was taken from her Allowance, 8*d.* more than they had actually received from their Labour; and thus they were screwed down from Time to Time, until the whole of all Three of their Allowances were taken away, and Orders given them to go into the Prison Workhouse."

Will you have the goodness to mention the Names of each of those poor Widows?

Perhaps I should first of all say, that I conceive your Lordships to be the proper Tribunal to protect these Parties; many of them, where they have been known

Mr. John Lewin.

known to complain, have been followed with Persecution, not directly but indirectly. In my humble Judgment, they have suffered very severely from their Names being mentioned; that is why I did not name them.

Can you name any one Person who has suffered Persecution?
I am not prepared at present; but I could show Cases where they believe, and their Neighbours believe, and I believe, that they have.

If you believe that they have suffered from Persecution you must know who those Persons were who were suffering from Persecution. Will you name them?
I believe that I shall be prepared to name them by and by; they are not in my List.

When will you name them?
Another Day or so; when I have my Papers.

Will you give the Name of one of those Widows, and the Place where she lives?
The Name of the First Widow is Susan Ling.

Where does she live?
Blaxall, Suffolk.

Is that the Name of her Parish?
Yes.

Is it in any Union?
Yes.

What Union?
Plomesgate Union.

Was that Parish in any Gilbert Union before?
No; I do not think it was.

In no Union at all?
No.

Do the other Two Widows live in the same Parish?
No.

Do they live in the same Union?
One is in the same Union.

Will you give her Name?
Jane Grayston, Widow, of Tunstall, in the Plomesgate Union.

Was that Parish formerly in a Union before the new Poor Law?
No.

Will you give the Name of the Third Widow?
Widow Booth.

Where does she live?
In Woodbridge, which is in the Woodbridge Union.

Was that in an Union before the new Poor Law?
It might be under the Gilbert Act by itself, but not coupled with any other Place.

Do you reside in the same Union as those Two Women reside in?
Yes; those Two first Women.

Will you give the History of Susan Ling's Case? How old was she?
Forty-eight; left a Widow some Years back, with Twelve Children; but some of them are now grown up.

When was she left a Widow?
I do not think that I have it in Writing; she has been a Widow for some Years.

Mr. John Lewin.

In that Extract of the Letter you say, "Three poor Widows, left with Twenty-four Children;" will you divide them as well as you can?

The First Widow has Twelve. There is more than the Number with those Three; I wrote that from Memory, and it is not correct, but it is within the Bounds; Widow Grayston had also Twelve, and Widow Booth had Eight Children.

So that they had Thirty-two Children, instead of Twenty-four?
Yes.

How many of the first Twelve were grown up?
I have them here.

Will you give the Names and Ages of Susan Ling's Children?
Some are grown up. The Husband died of the Small-pox, leaving her with Twelve Children.

When did he die?
I do not know; some of the Children had grown up. At the Time this was written these were the Ages: Ann Twenty-seven, Hannah Twenty-five, Jane Twenty-three, Joseph Twenty-two, Susan Twenty, William Eighteen, Mary Ann Sixteen, John Fourteen, Abraham Twelve, Bathsheba Ten, David Eight, Mark Six.

Then, in point of fact, she had Five Children under Sixteen Years of Age?
Yes; the Two eldest were married.

You are aware that all those Children above Sixteen Years of Age were no longer a Burden to her under the new Law, but were to provide for themselves?
Yes.

How many were at home?
She had Nine to do for at this Time, as far as washing for and attending to them; they were only in Service around, some for a Week, and so on; so that she had to find them their washing and cleaning to the Number of Nine at this Time.

Do you mean that she found washing and cleaning for Four of those that were out at Service, or employed as Labourers, for nothing?
Yes; it is the Custom for Mothers to do that.

And they receive no Remuneration?
I do not know what they receive.

Was it not your Business to inquire how far she did receive any thing from those Children for doing those Things before you said that she was obliged to do that for them?
I am not aware of that.

You stated that she had Twelve Children, and had Nine Children to provide for in washing and cleaning; it appears that of those Nine Four were above Sixteen Years of Age, and therefore could earn their own Livelihood, and could not be a Burden to her?
I believe Mary Ann was a Burden to her at the Time, although she was Sixteen Years old.

Why?
Because she could not get constant Work.

Did she get Work at all?
Sometimes.

What did she earn?
I have it not in Writing.

Did you not think it necessary to inquire into those Matters before you stated those Cases?
I think I inquired to the full Extent of the Family; I have the Names and Ages of all of them.

Mr. John Lewin.

You did not inquire whether for the Four Children above Sixteen Years of Age she did find washing and cleaning, without receiving any Remuneration from them?

She told me that she had Nine Children to do for, and that if she went to the Workhouse she would leave them unprovided for.

Did you not enter into Particulars with her?

So far did I enter into Particulars,—she said that she always provided them with a clean Shirt on the Sunday, and felt it her Duty to do so.

You never inquired whether she was paid for so doing?

I did not.

Is it usual in that Part of the Country for Children to pay their Parents for washing and cleaning?

Not usual, I think; it depends upon their Ability; if their Earnings enable them to do so I believe they do.

Did you inquire into their Earnings?

Yes; I inquired into them as fully as I could.

How much did the one aged Twenty-seven earn? Was Ann, the eldest, married?

Yes.

To whom?

I do not know.

Do you know in what Circumstances she was?

She was married to a Labourer.

Was Hannah married?

Yes, to a Labourer.

Where was Jane?

In Service.

Do you know what Service?

No, I do not; I do not recollect now.

Joseph, aged Twenty-two, what was he?

He is a labouring Man.

A single Man?

I believe he is; he did not say that he was married.

Do you know what Wages he earned?

No.

Did he live with his Mother?

Yes.

Was he one of those that she washed and cleaned for?

Yes; I think he was.

Susan, aged Twenty, where was she?

I have it here; the Eight youngest at home, but Four earned their Living generally; Susan comes in.

Where was Susan?

I am not certain whether she was one.

Was she at home?

Yes.

Was she in Service?

I suppose she was not; I have no Account of her being in Service, because I took down those who were in Service.

From whom did you take it down?

From the Mother.

Is that the Paper which you originally wrote the Statement upon?

Yes.

Mr. John Lewin.

Having taken this from the Mother, did you take no pains to verify the Facts by other Inquiries?
No; I do not know that I did.

Then in fact all your Information upon this Subject rests upon what the Woman told you?
Yes; but I have heard from other Statements that correspond with that, from Labourers and poor People about them, that there is that Family.

Could they tell you how far those Persons were a Burden to this Woman or not?
I do not know that they could.

Do not you think that the Way would have been, to ascertain from the Persons themselves where they were living and what they earned, and what the Arrangement with their Mother was with respect to this washing and cleaning?
I did not consider that that was necessary further than the youngest Children.

Then you give up all but the youngest Children; you do not think the eldest Children should be taken into consideration, and that the youngest Children only were a Burden to her?
I did not consider that any but the youngest Children were a Burden to her, except this Trifle of attending to the washing and so on, which she did not consider of any Importance.

Which do you call the younger Children?
The Four youngest are the greatest Burden to her.

The Four youngest Children are at home, and she has to do for them?
Yes.

With respect to the others, you do not know whether they do pay her for the washing and cleaning or not?
I do not.

Or whether they bring any Part of their Wages towards her Maintenance or her Rent?
No.

If any Allowance is paid by these Persons for their washing and cleaning, would you suppose that the Allowance would be greater than the Expense to the Mother?
No; I should say not.

But if she is employed in washing their Clothes, she cannot be doing other Work?
Certainly not.

And therefore her Time is valuable, and she ought to have something for it?
Yes.

And therefore it was their Duty to pay her for that Work?
If they could afford to do so.

And you never inquired whether they could afford or not?
She told me at the Time, but I have not written it down.

Do you know what Allowances grown-up Labourers are in the habit of making upon these Occasions?
Sometimes they carry their whole Money to their Parents, and sometimes they allow so much for doing for them.

How much?
Sometimes 6*d.* a Week.

For what?
For washing the Shirt, and cleaning up.

Mr. John Lewin.

You do not know that Joseph, for instance, did not carry home the whole of his Wages to his Mother?
No.

Do you know what Wages Susan earned?
No, I do not.

Do you know whether she earned any thing?
I will read the Paper, and see whether there is any Account of it or not; by this it appears that the Relieving Officer ordered her to go and nurse another Person.

That is no Answer to the Question. What are the Wages of the Labourers in that Part of Suffolk in general?
It depends upon what they are; some of those young Men are earning 5*s.* and 6*s.* a Week, and to 8*s.* or 9*s.*, and some as high as 10*s.*

Do you know what Joseph earned?
No.

Or Susan?
No.

Do you know whether William earned any thing, who is aged Eighteen?
I am not prepared to say.

Do you know whether Mary Ann, aged Sixteen, earned any thing?
I suppose she did not, because she had an Order for herself and her Six Children to go into the Workhouse, therefore Six of them were chargeable at that Time, as a matter of course.

John, Fourteen Years of Age, did he earn any thing?
I have no Account of John earning any thing.

Did you see John?
No.

Did you ever ask him?
I could not ask him if I did not see him.

Did you not think it worth while to see him and ask him?
I do not know.

Did you make any Inquiries of his Mother?
Yes.

What did you ask her?
I do not recollect exactly what I asked the Mother; I asked her at the Time what they did earn, I dare say.

Did you ask where he worked?
I have no Memoranda to that Effect.

Did you ask whether he worked at all?
I asked her if her Family were employed at all, and she said, sometimes they were, and sometimes not.

Did you ask where they had any Employment?
None but in the Fields.

Did you ask whether John was constantly employed by the Farmers or not in the Fields?
I cannot recollect now whether I asked that Question or not.

Did you take an Account of John's Earnings and his Situation merely from what the Widow said, without any further Inquiry?
Certainly.

Had you known the Widow, Susan Ling, for any Time before you made those Inquiries?
I had known her some Time.

How long?
Since the Poor Law; I did not know her before.

Mr. John Lewin.

How did your Acquaintance originate?
She came to me to complain.

Do you believe her to be a Person of Veracity?
Certainly.

Are you of opinion that before the Appointment of this Committee there was any competent Tribunal to investigate such Cases?
No.

Are you of opinion that there existed any Means in your Power for obtaining Redress for the Grievances stated in this Case?
Not till I came here.

Did you see any Utility in making particular Inquiries as to those specific Facts, thinking, as you did, that there did not exist any competent Tribunal to investigate the Cases, and that you had not any Means of obtaining Redress?
No.

Was that your Reason for not making specific Inquiries?
It was.

When did you learn that you were coming up to give Evidence upon these Points?
I learnt that a Letter had been received at my House last Week in my Absence; it was sent to me in London, and I passed it on the Road, and I did not get the Letter till this Morning.

You have not been at home?
Yes; I went home at the Time the Letter was coming up to me.

Have you had sufficient Time to make Inquiries into these Cases since you knew of the Appointment of the Committee?
No.

Did you know that there was a Committee of the House of Commons sitting upon the Subject of the Poor Laws?
Yes; I had seen an Account of it in the Paper.

Did you ever apply to the Board of Guardians yourself upon this Subject?
Certainly not.

Why not?
Because I had been treated by some of the Guardians before in a very unhandsome Manner; when I spoke of Things I was persecuted; in my humble Judgment, I was treated in a strange Sort of Way.

Will you state in what Way you were persecuted?
I was treated in a strange Sort of a Way by the Guardian of my own Parish; I was Churchwarden of the Parish, and I went to intercede for the Poor, and I was told I had no Right to interfere.

Where did you go?
To the Pay Table.

Did you go to the Board of Guardians?
No.

Going to the Pay Table could be of no Use, because the Relieving Officer had to relieve only certain Cases, as he was directed by the Board, and could make no Alteration?
I have Documents to show that he did make Alterations, and that, I believe, the Guardian sometimes dictated to him what Alteration to make.

Why did you not complain to the Board, he being the Servant of the Board?
He was the Vice President of the Board of Guardians who was the Guardian of our Parish, and attended, as he declared himself, because the Relieving Officer was not a good hand at questioning. I took it for granted that it was because he did not screw down the Poor sufficiently that he went to help to screw down the Poor still lower.

Mr. John Lewin.

Do you mean to say that the Vice President of the Board of Guardians attended at the Pay Table for the Purpose of making the Relieving Officer screw down the Poor more than he would otherwise have done?
I believe so, and the Poor believe so.

Will you state to this Committee, now you are under the Sanction of an Oath, the Reason that induced you to come to that Opinion?
Yes; I will give an Instance of it: the Widow Cotton, Four Children, I believe; the Guardian was present, and ordered the Relieving Officer not to pay her the 1*s.* 6*d.*; the Children had been at work, and earned 1*s.* 2*d.*;—she had Two Stone of Flour, and 1*s.* 6*d.*

What is Mr. Barclay?
The Vice Chairman of the Board of Guardians.

You were present?
Not at this Time.

How do you know a Word about it? How can you presume to speak to any thing, when you were not present; Do you know the Fact of your own Knowledge?
I may as well go back again, if I am to be confined to that. I can bring the Woman forward to state the Fact, but when I spoke of it the Relieving Officer admitted the Fact.

Did you speak to the Relieving Officer about it?
I am not positive; but she appealed to the late Overseer who is a Neighbour of mine, and he will state the Fact.

Did you hear her appeal to him?
I am not aware that I heard her, but I asked him if it were true, and he told me that it was, and the Woman stated the Case to me herself.

But you told the Committee that you were persecuted; will you state something that occurred to yourself?
It arose out of those Circumstances: I was told not to trouble my Head to go and set the Board of Guardians to-rights.

Who told you that?
Mr. Barclay.

Where?
In the Churchyard.

Why did you not then go to the Board of Guardians to complain of those Circumstances; he was but One Guardian out of a good Number?
He was the leading one.

Who is the Chairman?
Mr. Shuldham.

Was that the whole of the Persecution you underwent?
No; I can point out Instances, not directly, but indirectly.

You were asked what your Persecution was, and you adduce this Case; what was that Persecution?
That was not the Question; I am producing this to prove that the Relieving Officer altered the Amount of Payment.

You said you were persecuted yourself, and that was the Reason you had not applied to the Board?
I believe that it arose out of this: I was treated in that Sort of Way by the Vice President.

Was that any Reason why, if you thought the Woman was ill-treated, you should not have gone to the Board, and complained to them?
I did not see that Necessity, when the Order stood on the Book for 1*s.* 6*d.*; and if she had 1*s.* 6*d.* I should have had no Reason to complain; it was the Treatment of this Woman by the Guardian or Relieving Officer.

Mr. John Lewin.

Who were the Parties that could by Possibility set that right?
This one Guardian who had done the Act.

If he refused to act properly, was there no other Person to whom you could apply, either to persuade or order him to do so?
I do not consider that there was, because I knew that he had almost always the Majority in every thing he proposed at the Board; I was told so.

Who told you?
A great many of the Guardians.

Did this Woman ever go to the Board herself, and complain of not having had the Payment which the Board, you say, had ordered her?
I do not know that I have heard that.

You say you have nothing to find fault with in the Decision of the Board of Guardians; you having nothing to find fault with in the Decision of the Board of Guardians in that Case in which the Woman did not get what they ordered, would it not be a proper Course for the Woman to have gone to the Board, so constituted, and to have stated to them that their Order had not been obeyed?
They got no Redress when they went, hardly any of them, in such Cases.

Did this Woman go?
I am not aware.

Do you not think that Persons have a very good Chance with any public Board if they go to complain that the Servants of the Board have not obeyed the Orders of their Masters?
I beg your Pardon; this Woman did apply to the Board of Guardians afterwards.

What did they do?
She had Two Stone of Flour and Sixpence a Week for the Month of August, and then she went to the Board of Guardians.

Where did you get this?
This was taken from the Woman; and when she went to the Board of Guardians they said that she had good strong Beer in the House, and she said, if she had it it was her Son's, made from Malt of his Master's.

What Son is that?
One of the eldest of her Family; he was at work for a Farmer in her Parish; the Malt he had from his Master; his Master would, of course, expect him to have it, or he could not get through his Harvest Work. She told them that they could eat all the Flour that had been allowed them under the new Poor Law for a Week in Four Days. This was at the Parish Meeting that this Woman stated this; I was present.

Did the Parish beg the Guardian to represent that Case to the Board?
The Parish wished that they would give her better Allowance.

Did they wish the Guardian to represent that Case to the Board?
No.

Why not?
A great many others were in the same Way, and therefore we considered One Application was sufficient for the whole.

What Case did you desire them to lay before the Board?
This is the Resolution come to at the Meeting of the Rate-payers of the Parish; it was resolved, "That in the Opinion of this Meeting the Poor of this Parish have been treated with unnecessary Severity under the Practice of the new Poor Law, not having a sufficient Quantity of Bread, and no Means of buying Meat, Drink, or Clothing; that we scorn the Idea of any petty paltry Saving, if it is to be done by grinding, pinching, and screwing the Poor in the Manner it has been done, and that we do not find it a saving Plan, but abominably extravagant, when compared with how much we pay, and how little the Poor receive."

Was

Mr. John Lewin.

Was this a very large Meeting?
Yes.

Is the Resolution signed by any body?
Yes.

By whom?
Myself, as Chairman, and a Number of the People present.

Who called the Meeting?
I do not know that it was any particular Person.

Who called the Vestry?
It was not a regular Vestry Meeting, but a common Town Meeting; we let each other know.

Can you not state who called the Meeting?
I do know but what I called it myself.

Do not you know that you did call it?
I am not certain.

How long ago was this?
The 20th of September 1836.

Was it a periodical Meeting, a weekly Meeting, or a fortnightly Meeting, or a monthly Meeting?
It was a fortnightly Meeting; a Circular was sent round, that the Petitioners would meet at such and such Houses, and such and such Dates.

It was not a Meeting called specially for this Purpose?
No.

Was it called specifically for the Purpose of the Poor Law?
It was to look into the Poor altogether; the Poor Law was in operation at the Time.

How long had it been in operation at the Time?
Somewhere about Ten or Twelve Months.

Was there any Business transacted at that Meeting but that?
Yes.

Will you read any other Resolution that was come to?
"That Mr. Barclay, as the Guardian of the Poor of this Parish, be requested to present this Resolution to the Board of Guardians, and to do all in his Power to obtain more liberal Allowances for the aged, infirm, and impotent Poor; that the Chairman send Mr. Barclay a Copy of these Resolutions, and sign the same on behalf of the Meeting."

That Chairman was yourself?
Yes; I signed it as Chairman, and sent a Copy to Mr. Barclay.

Have you the Names of the Persons that were present at that Meeting besides yourself?
Twenty-six Names are down in that List.

Were they all Rate-payers?
Yes; I believe they were.

Was it the Majority of the Rate-payers of the Parish?
No; I should say not; but it was a greater Meeting than we generally had of the Parish.

And it was called solely to consider these Cases?
The Notice of the Meeting was a printed Form for every Fortnight.

What was the Business you transacted there?
To collect and give Information as to the Poor.

It was a fortnightly Meeting, with respect to the Operation of the Poor Law?
Not the Poor Law alone.

Mr. John Lewin.

What other Business?
Other Matters of Parish Concerns; such as rating, we never,—the Churchwardens and Overseers,—make a Rate without having a Meeting.

But that required a regular Notice in the Church?
Yes.

Was the Clergyman present at this Meeting
No.

What Answer did Mr. Barclay return to that?
None whatever.

You heard the Report?
No.

Did he present it to the Board?
I do not know.

Was he re-elected?
Yes.

Within Five or Six Months after that?
Yes.

Who elected him?
The Majority of the Parishioners.

The Rate-payers?
A great Number of Votes that he had were from the Owners of Property out of the Parish.

They have to pay Rates in the Parish, have they not?
Yes, some of them; the Owners are not rated unless they are Occupiers.

Who was the other Candidate besides Mr. Barclay?
I was.

Will you give the Proportion of Votes to each?
I do not know it; but it was one of my Opponents that nominated me, quite against my Inclination, to annoy me.

Would you have served if you had been elected?
No; I do not know that I should. I had told some of my Friends that I would not serve, and many told me afterwards that was why they did not vote for me; I never tried to get a Vote, or I might have had a Majority, I dare say.

If Mr. Barclay did not attend to this Remonstrance, and lay it before the Board, did you ever ask him why he did not?
Yes; and he did not give me any Answer. I do not know whether I put the Question to him; I said, in the next Parish Meeting, it was very strange that he never gave me any Answer.

Did you ever ask him?
No.

Did you receive an Answer from him?
He treated me in that Sort of Way that he referred me to the Guardians.

You do not know whether he presented this to the Board?
I do not know whether he did or did not.

If he did not represent your Feelings and the Feelings, of the other Rate-payers to the Board, how came you not to propose some other Person in his Room?
I did, Mr. Blake.

Had you a Poll upon it?
Yes; but Mr. Blake sent round, and hoped that nobody would vote; he would not serve.

Could you not have found some other Person?
Not that would accept it.

Mr. John Lewin.

Is there nobody in the Parish but Mr. Barclay that is not adverse to this new Poor Law, and finds fault with its Administration?
There are others that think with Mr. Barclay, as a matter of course.

Then if Mr. Barclay had behaved ill in not having given you an Answer, and represented to the Board the Feelings of the Parish upon the Subject, was it not possible for you to have elected another Person?
I did not conceive that it was; I nominated the most proper Person, as I conceived.

Was Mr. Blake present at this Meeting?
I do not think he was.

Does he think with you upon the Subject of the Poor Laws?
I do not think he does; he is a Farmer who does not wish to interfere, and that was the Reason he sent round and begged all the Parties to turn over their Votes to Mr. Barclay.

He wished his Friends to vote for Mr. Barclay?
Yes.

Was there nobody in the Parish who was not unfavourable to the new Poor Law who would have behaved civilly to you, and would not have persecuted you?
I did not consider that there was any other Person so proper as the Person I nominated, and I did not know that he would not serve at the Time.

Was this the whole of the Persecution you have spoken of, that Mr. Barclay did not make the Representation to the Guardians, or give you an Answer?
No; I think it has been followed up in a different Way.

Give the whole History of your Persecution?
It is not directly, but indirectly, I fancy, that I have received it.

Will you state how indirectly you have been persecuted?
I think I am rated much higher under the new Regulation; if I had not offended them I do not think I should have been.

Had you not the Power of Appeal?
Yes; I did appeal, but I could not get on with it, because it was Frost and Snow; and since that Time there has been an Order that the Parish shall be surveyed, and therefore I expected the Survey, or I should have appealed before now.

When where you rated so much higher?
I think it was October 1837.

What was the Date?
Within the last Twelvemonth.

Did that make an Alteration in your rating only?
No; in all the others.

Was it in the Spring of that Year, or in the Summer of last Year, or in the Autumn of last Year, that you were rated?
I think it was the Michaelmas Quarter; the October Rate.

When the new Regulation came first into operation?
When the first Change of rating came into operation.

Did you lodge an Appeal at the Sessions at Christmas?
If you will allow me I will state it. I first of all appealed to the Parish; I proposed a Parish Meeting, and was seconded by a great many of the most respectable Individuals in the Parish; but first they wished that the Rate might have been made, as recommended by some of the Magistrates, and adopted by other Parishes around us, before the new Assessment Law came into operation, in order that in the other Three Months there might be more Time to give the Valuation in before the other Rate was made another Quarter; that was refused, however, by the Overseers. Mr. Barclay answered at the Meeting; for the Overseers were Men that went to him for every thing, not

Mr. John Lewin.

knowing any thing of Parish Business themselves. A Committee was appointed at the Time, to investigate the Matter, and report to the Parish Officers, and advise with them as to regulating the Parish Concerns and the rating, and to make it more satisfactory to the Inhabitants generally.

Were any Alterations made by that Committee in the Rate?

Yes; the Committee found it was impossible to get it done in the short Time, and the Time was agreed to be extended. Before that extended Time expired a Parish Meeting was called, and it was taken out of the Hands of the Committee.

Why?

I never knew.

Was it on account of the new Rate coming on?

It was taken out of the Hands of the Committee several Days before the Time appointed for making their Report; the Committee, however; got it ready, and produced it, and the Meeting approved of the greater Part; there were several Things, amongst others my own was one, and several others, were not agreed to, but left to Arbitration. The Parish named a Person to settle that between the Parties and Mr. Barclay, and some of the Parish Officers objected to him, and appointed another, and we agreed that those Two should meet and settle the Difference. The Committee gave an Order to the Person named by them; but the Parish Officers, who, as the Committee concluded, acted under Mr. Barclay's Directions, gave no Order whatever to the Person appointed by them; but they made the Rate in Defiance of that Committee; and all the other Parishes around. Two adjoining ones, doubled the Amount all alike; thus they were rated in an equal and fair Way, till the Matter was settled. Ours was rated in an unequal and unfair Way; some were raised 50 per Cent, and some 200; mine was raised 200 per Cent. while some were raised 50.

Did you appeal to the Magistrates?

I did, at the Quarter Sessions following; they said I must appeal at the proper Time, which was done; and a few Days before the Frost and Snow was so severe that the Person I employed said he could not swear to the Value of the Land unless he could see it without Frost and Snow upon it; and they would not allow the Matter to stand over till that could be done. I appealed to the Magistrates to respite it till the next Quarter Sessions.

On the Ground that the Valuer could not obtain the Value of this Property? When you had this Arbitration had there been no Valuation taken of your Land?

No; not at that Time.

Were you not prepared to come before the Arbitrators with a Case?

Yes; but I wished the Arbitrators to see the Land.

But somebody had looked over the Land before that Time for you, had there not?

No.

Are you not aware that the Magistrates had not the Power of quashing that Rate, but that it was obliged to remain till finally settled, as the Rate was first made?

No.

They cannot alter the Rate, can they, unless there is Cause shown?

Yes. What good is our appealing unless they can?

At Quarter Sessions?

I understood that this new Law was to make it an easy Appeal, and I did not employ a Lawyer until the Hour of the Appeal, when I found the Parish Officers employed Mr. Barclay to come against me.

Then by Agreement it was left to Two Persons to state what the Amount of Assessment would be?

It was so agreed, but not done; it was taken out of their Hands again, by the Rate being made before they spoke to their Arbitrator.

Mr. John Lewin.

Was your Rate changed from the Year 1836 to the Year 1837?
No.

Then you were not persecuted during that Period, at all events, by your rating?
Not in that; but I felt their Treatment.

Did you propose any Gentleman to be a Guardian this Year instead of Mr. Barclay?
No, I did not.

You say that you doubt whether you would serve if elected; why?
I did not like the Proceedings of the Law altogether.

Are you of opinion that because you disliked the Proceedings of the Law, it is right and proper for you to allow Cases of alleged Cruelty to exist, whereas if you accepted the Office you might bring them before your Brother Guardians?
I certainly objected to it, because there was such a Majority against me that I knew it was of no Use to bring it forward.

Are you prepared to say that the Majority of the Board of Guardians are not humane Men?
I have no Right to say any thing but of my own Opinion; my own Opinion is that they are not.

Is that the whole of the Persecution of which you speak?
I cannot tell One Quarter or One Twentieth of it; it is not in a Shape to be told; I feel a great deal that I cannot express.

Have they done any thing violent to your Farm, or any thing else?
If they had I should be able to state that.

What have they done?
I mentioned that about Persecution; I do not know that I said much about it.

Have you been persecuted?
If I had not considered so I should not have mentioned it.

Is what you have mentioned about the Rates the only Instance in which you have been persecuted?
I cannot say that; I did not know that I should have been questioned upon that, and therefore I cannot bring forward any thing. The Poor thought they were more severely treated when Mr. Barclay was present at the Pay Table than when he was not.

Have any Insinuations been made to your Disadvantage; have you been persecuted in that Way?
Yes; I consider that I have.

What have those Insinuations been?
Asking the Poor if they have been to me; if I had advised them to do this and the other.

Is there any great Insinuation in that? How has that hurt you?
I fancy that it has hurt me.

In what Way has it hurt you?
I cannot tell that more than I have told you.

Was it, in point of fact, true that they did come and ask your Advice?
No; not those Parties that they asked.

You had not advised those Parties?
There was One Person that told me so, that I had never seen before; the Relieving Officer told him that he had been to me, and that I had advised him.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned till To-morrow, Twelve o'Clock.

Die Martis, 15° *Maii* 1838.

The Lord WHARNCLIFFE in the Chair.

Mr. JOHN LEWIN is called in, and further examined as follows:

IN the early Party of Yesterday, you said that there were a great many other Cases, the Names of which you could bring at another Time; have you brought them with you?
I have brought a good many.

With respect to the Case of Susan Ling; her Son, John Ling, appears by these Papers to be Fourteen Years old. Did you see him when you went to inquire of the Woman about her Circumstances?
No; the Woman came to me.

Did you ever see this Son?
Not that I recollect.

Can you state how far he is employed and earns any thing?
I do not know that I have any Memorandum of it; I suppose he was at work at the Time this Paper was written, because it says Four of the eldest are earning their Living, generally leaving Four and the Widow to live on the Poor Law Allowance.

Then you mean to say that John, Fourteen Years old, did earn something towards his Livelihood?
I apprehend he did at this Time.

At what Time?
At the Time this was written.

When was that?
The 20th of January 1837.

There is another Boy, Abraham, who is Twelve Years old; can he do any thing towards earning his Livelihood?
He was not doing any thing at that Time.

How do you know?
The Mother told me so.

Have you any Information with respect to any of those Children but what you derived from the Mother?
Yes; I have seen the Three youngest.

From whom did you hear all those Particulars?
From the Mother.

Did you hear any thing upon the Subject from any body else?
Yes; I inquired of One of the Farmers of the Parish, a neighbouring Farmer; and he said the Woman was in very great Distress, and that she had been treated very severely, in his Opinion.

What was the Name of that Farmer?
Mr. James Hillier.

Was he able to tell you any thing with respect to the Earnings of any Part of the Family?
I should think in all Probability he was; I believe Part of the Family were at work for him.

Mr. John Lewin.

Did you ask him any Questions with respect to the Earnings of any Part of the Family?

I do not recollect what I asked him exactly; but I think I asked him if the Widow was not in great Distress, and he said she was.

You do not know any Particulars, with respect to the Employment of any of the Children, and their Means of earning any thing towards the Support of the Widow or themselves?

I asked him in what Manner he thought the poor Woman and her Family had been treated; and he said that he had had a good deal of Conversation with the Relieving Officer, who said that he had practised this to keep down Imposition; and Mr. Miller said, the Woman could not practise Imposition there without their Knowledge, for they were quite satisfied in their Opinions, he and the rest of the Parish, that the Woman required more Relief.

You said that the Relieving Officer had practised this to prevent Imposition; what did he practise?

He was very strict with the Woman, with regard to her going out to nurse, which I began to state Yesterday; but I was asked another Question, and left off.

Was this Woman in the habit of going out to nurse?

She was ordered by the Relieving Officer to go out to nurse another Person though she had got Nine of her own Family to do for, and he said he would be satisfied if she would go and sit up every other Night with the sick Person.

And she was to be paid something more for so doing?

He never said any thing about paying her. She went and sat up One Night, and then the sick Woman sent for another Person, and she was not wanted, or she would have gone again; but she was told not to go, as she was not wanted. The Relieving Officer met her on the Road, and asked her if she had been to attend the sick Woman, Woolnough; she said, No, she had not been this Week. He said "Oh, you will not go," and went off, and would not allow her to explain that she went as long as she was wanted; neither would the Chairman nor any of the Board of Guardians allow her to explain any thing of the Kind. They asked her if she was the Woman they had ordered to nurse Widow Woolnough, and she said Yes.

Was that at the Board of Guardians?

Yes.

What Paper is that from which you have now been reading?

A Paper written by me, in the Presence of the Woman, when she told her Story.

When?

I believe the Date is upon it.

And she signed her Mark?

She made her Mark.

Those are all the Particulars that you are acquainted with, with respect to Susan Ling?

I believe they are. I am not quite certain. I looked over all my Papers last Night and this Morning. I am not quite certain that there is not more Information in them.

Will you deliver in those Papers?

I will.

The Witness delivers in the same, which are read, and are as follows:

"Susan Ling (48), Widow, and Twelve Children: Ann (27), married; Hannah (25), married; Jane (23), Service; Joseph (21); Susan (20); William (18); Mary Ann (16); John (14); Abram (12); Bathsheba (10); David (8); Mark (6). Eight youngest at home, but Four of them earn their Living generally, leaving Four and the Widow to live on the Poor Law Allowance of Two Stone of Flour, (4*s.* 10*d.*) and 2*s.*; and for Three Weeks Susan and Mary Ann earned 10½*d.* and 4*d.* Thus there were Seven of them that had to live on this the last Three Weeks, since the bad Frost and snowy Weather. This Allowance

Allowance is very little, but she dare not complain, for fear of having the whole stopped and an Order for the Workhouse. *Mr. John Lewin.*

her
" Susan ⋈ Ling.
Mark.

" July 1837.—All Allowance taken off and an Order to go into Workhouse, when the Family got a little gleaning Corn and made out as well as they could, but were half starved; as the poor Woman had Nine of her Children to wash and to do for as well as she could. Some Time after Harvest she was allowed One Stone of Flour, and after some few Weeks Mr. Hillier applied to the Relieving Officer, and pleaded for her to have Two Stone, which was allowed for a Time."

" Susan Ling (48), Widow; Husband died of Smallpox, leaving her with Twelve Children: Ann (27); Hannah (25); Jane (23); Joseph (22); Susan (20); William (18); Mary Ann (16); John (14); Abram (12); Bathsheba (10); David (8); Mark (6); Two eldest married, and Jane (23) gone to America. The Widow now has Nine besides herself, to do for and take care of.

" Since new Poor Law, has had Two Stone of Flour and 2*s.* for herself and Four youngest Children; the others have, some of them, had Half a Stone of Flour, and sometimes 6*d.* and sometimes 1*s.* when they have been ill or out of Employment. Relieving Officer ordered her to go to nurse another Person, although she had got Nine of her own Family to do for; and said he would be satisfied if she would go and sit up every other Night with the sick Person. She went and sat up One Night, and then the sick Woman got another Person, and she was not wanted, or would have gone again; but she was told not to go, as she was not wanted. Relieving Officer met her in the Road, and asked her if she had been to attend the sick Woman (Woolnough); she said, No, she had not been this Week. He then said, " You wont go," and went off and would not allow her to explain that she went as long as she was wanted; neither would the Chairman or any of the Board of Guardians allow her to explain any thing of the Kind. Asked the Relieving Officer if this was the Woman he ordered to go to nurse the Woman (Woolnough); he said, Yes. One of the Guardians said " The Poor of this Union will not go to nurse one another." The poor Woman then begged to be heard, and tried to explain; but the Board would not hear her nor allow her to explain any thing in any Way, but told her to hold her Tongue, and then gave her an Order for herself and Six Children to go into the Prison Workhouse. Relieving Officer has been continually teasing her to go into Lancashire; for the first Year of the new Poor Law he asked her Eight Wednesdays out of Nine if she had made up her Mind to go; and the Board, as well as Relieving Officer, were constantly teasing and coaxing her to go, telling her, that she and her Family might earn 20*s.* or 30*s.* per Week there, &c. &c.; and when she would not consent then threatened to send her into the Prison Workhouse, to try if that would not alter her Mind about going away; but she always told them she would not; if they sent her to the Workhouse she must go in and submit to it, for she would not consent to go away; but they never gave her an Order till now. She thinks this Treatment very hard and very cruel, as she has always strived to the utmost of her Power to keep her Family as clean and as tidy as possible, and to do everything that is honest, just, and right.

" I am ready and willing to make Oath to the above whenever I am called upon to do so.

her
" Susan ⋈ Ling.
Mark.

" After many Weeks, about October, she got One Stone of Flour allowed her per Week, and then about November, Two Stone again, and that was continued till about Eight or Ten Weeks back. From this 11th Day of May 1838, when it was all taken away, Two of her youngest Three Children had One Day's Work, 3*d.* each, which 6*d.* is the only Money they have earned for the last Eight or Ten Weeks; and she has had no Allowance whatever since."

Have you any Information whatever respecting Susan Ling but what is derived from herself and from seeing that she was in Distress?

I do not recollect particularly, but several of the labouring Poor have told me that the Woman was in great Distress.

But as to the Particulars of her Earnings, or any thing of that Sort; is there any body that can give the Committee the Information, that you can state?

Not that I am aware of, further than I have stated.

Mr. John Lewin.

Have you been Overseer of the Parish?
No.

Were you never Overseer, nor Parish Officer?
A great many Years ago.

When was that?
I have been Overseer when I was very young; as much as Forty Years ago. My Father was Overseer, and I assisted him.

You were Overseer of Blacksell Parish, or of Wickham Market?
Not of either Blacksell or Wickham Market. I was Overseer, many Years ago, of the Parish of Watford in Hertfordshire.

Have not you been Overseer in that Neighbourhood?
Only as Churchwarden.

Did not you pay the Poor?
No.

Had you nothing to do with the Payment of the Poor before the passing of the new Poor Law?
Yes, I have, as other Parish Officers attended to the Poor. I attended to them very closely for many Years.

For how many Years did you do that?
Not less than Twenty Years I have attended to Parish Business.

In what Parish was that?
Wickham Market. I have attended to the Business of Wickham Market for Twenty Years. I was not Overseer but Surveyor and Churchwarden most Part of the Time.

Were you Assistant Overseer in that Parish?
No; we had no Assistant Overseer.

You have had a considerable Share in the Management of the Poor?
Yes.

And in consequence of the Measures you proposed a large Reduction was effected in the Poor's Rates?
Yes. They (the Poor Rate, Surveyors, and Church Rate altogether) were 20*s.* in the Pound, and we reduced them to 8*s.* at one Time, and from 10*s.* to 12*s.* for a long Time.

When was that?
About 1817 and 1818, when at the highest.

Where was that?
In Wickham Market.

Did you continue to have a good deal to do with the Payment of the Poor up to the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act?
Yes.

Did you ever receive a Salary as Overseer?
Never.

Have you been in the habit as Overseer of relieving this Woman?
No, never; it did not belong to my Parish.

How far did she live from your Parish?
About Four or Five Miles.

Did you know her before she came to you?
No.

Do you know what induced her to come to you?
Yes; I apprehend so. I was One of the Sub-Committee to collect Facts and Evidence with reference to the Poor Law.

What Committee was that?
A Committee I belong to, in London, of the Central Agricultural Society. There were several Sub-Committees, and amongst others a Sub-Committee

formed

Mr. John Lewin.

formed for the Question of Tithe, and a Sub-Committee formed on the Question of Poor Law; I was on that Committee, and was requested by myBrother Committee-men to collect Facts and Evidence to lay before them.

What is the Name of that Committee? Is not Lord Stanhope at the Head of it?
Lord Stanhope was the Chairman of that Committee.

You were to collect Facts to elucidate the Hardships that arose under the new Poor Law?
Not the Hardships but the Truth, as to the working of the new Poor Law. These Memorandums were drawn up for that Purpose.

You were known down there to be a Person appointed to collect this Evidence in that Neighbourhood?
Yes.

And in consequence of that this Woman came to you?
Yes; I suppose so.

Did you know her before?
No.

Had you ever been at her House?
I have called at her Cottage.

Is it her own Cottage?
No.

Does she rent it?
I believe she rents it.

You do not know?
I did not ask her about her Cottage.

Do you know what Rent she pays?
I do not think there is any thing on my Memorandum as to the Rent.

If it is not in your Memorandum you do not know?
No; I do not recollect.

Do you know any thing of the Woman's Character?
I always heard her spoken of as a very industrious Woman.

But you do not know yourself any thing of her Character?
I do not know any more than I made Inquiry, just as I know any other Person's Character. I asked if she was a decent, respectable, industrious Woman, and I was told that she was.

Are you acquainted with her yourself, so as to be able to speak to her Character?
No further than that. I do not know more of her than of any other poor Person.

Do you, of your own Knowledge, know any thing about this Woman's Character?
Nothing but what I heard from herself and others.

Are any of the Facts which she communicated to you known to you otherwise than from that Communication?
I asked a Farmer about them, and he said they were correct.

Did any of those Things come under your own Observation, so that you can speak to them without reference to other Persons?
I never employed the Woman, and I cannot tell any thing about it in any other Way.

Have you yourself seen the State of Poverty in which those Persons are supposed to be?
Yes; I have seen the Children very nearly naked, and they appeared very much distressed, and the Cottage very ill furnished; but what there was was remarkably clean and decent.

Mr. John Lewin.

That you have seen yourself?
Yes.

Is all that any Persons have told you upon the Subject entered upon that Paper which you have delivered in.
No; I believe what Mr. Hillier told me is not entered upon that Paper.

What is his Christian Name?
James.

Where does he live?
At Blacksell.

Are most of the Things which you have heard from others entered upon the Memoranda you have?
Yes, I think they are; but am not quite certain.

You spoke of a Conversation between Susan Ling and the Releiving Officer, and another between her and the Board of Guardians; there is no Date to those Conversations; can you state when they occurred?
I have no Memorandum here to show that.

Was the Mark of Susan Ling put in your Presence?
Yes.

She did not write down her Name, Susan Ling, at length; but she made her Mark, to prove that it was all correct?
Yes. It was read over to her after it was written down.

Did you make any Inquiry of any other Person except Mr. Hillier with respect to the Circumstances of this poor Woman and her Family?
Only amongst the Poor. I might have done.

None of the Farmers or Rate-payers of the Parish?
I do not recollect that I did.

Did you inquire of the Relieving Officer?
No, I did not.

Then you seem to have taken no Evidence respecting the Situation of this Woman and her Family except that of the Woman herself?
And of the Farmer.

How long was that ago?
I cannot tell now.

Did you happen to meet the Relieving Officer during the Time you were making Inquiries in that Neighbourhood with respect to the Circumstances of the Poor, and any Grievance that had arisen under the Administration of the new Poor Law?
No; I do not recollect meeting him.

Do you consider that the Evidence of the Relieving Officer is, in all Cases, better than that of the Pauper?
I do not consider it at all better. It is always partial; in my Judgment.

Do not you think that an old Overseer's Evidence may be a little partial, in consequence of the Power being taken out of his Hands?
No; I do not think so. I always endeavour to do my Duty straight forward and honourably.

Do not you think the Complainant's Story may be a little partial?
I think I am able to judge of that, after Forty Years Experience.

Have you had Forty Years Experience of Susan Ling?
No; of Paupers in general.

You think that Paupers in general, when they come to make Complaints, are never partial in their Statements?
No, I do not state that; but I think any Man of my Years may detect it.

Mr. John Lewin.

You state that the Relieving Officer's Account probably would be partial; is not it probable that the Complainant's Story may likewise be partial?
There may be some, and I have no Doubt there are. There are a great many that I have heard in that Way, that I have thought partial; and I did not bring them forward.

You have exercised a Discretion upon that Subject?
I have exercised a Discretion.

Have you distributed any printed Papers in any of the Parishes in your Union?
No.

Were there any of the Papers distributed from Lord Stanhope's Committee in London?
Not that I recollect. I do not recollect having any down from that Committee.

Are you positively certain that there were none?
I have no Recollection of any.

You are quite sure that you have not distributed any?
Certainly not since.

Was it known by the labouring Classes in that Neighbourhood that you were investigating any Abuse existing under the Poor Law?
It was known by the labouring Classes that I was appointed as a Person to collect Facts and Evidence respecting the working of the Poor Law.

Would it not have been more satisfactory to your own Mind if the Evidence of this Woman had been corroborated by the Evidence of respectable Land Owners and Occupiers in that Parish, who were qualified to give you Information as to the real Circumstances of that Family, and as to the Earnings of that Family?
I asked Mr. Hillier, as I before observed, about the State the Woman was in, but nothing further.

You have stated, that you acted for many Years as Overseer under the old Poor Law; has not it come to your Knowledge, frequently during that Period, that Persons of the labouring Class have very much underrated their Earnings when they have come to you for Relief?
No; very seldom indeed.

You have never known Cases of that Kind?
I have known Instances where they have practised it; but they were deceptive Cases, and such as I could soon discover.

Do you think it impossible for the Relieving Officer under the new Poor Law to distinguish those Cases?
Not at all.

And therefore he would exercise the same Discretion that you exercised formerly in discriminating such Cases?
I do not know that he would. I believe that the Instructions of the Relieving Officer were to be as sharp as possible with the Poor, in order to reduce the Rates as much as possible.

Upon what Grounds do you believe that?
Because it appears to me there is a great deal of that Sort of thing in the general Practice.

Have you never seen the Instructions circulated by the Guardians, and from the Commissioners to the Guardians?
I do not recollect seeing any.

You are understood to say, that you have been an Overseer under the ancient System of Poor Laws a great many Years?
I have been Churchwarden.

Mr. John Lewin.

At Watford?
No; I have been Surveyor and Churchwarden for the last Fifteen or Twenty Years in Wickham Market.

Is there a Workhouse at Watford?
There used to be one.

As an Officer of the Parish did you ever see the Workhouse in the Parish of Watford?
I never saw much of it; I was serving as the Officer collecting the Rates for my Father, who was the Overseer for a Hamlet of the Parish only, and I had nothing to do with the Workhouse.

Were you ever in that Workhouse?
I believe I have seen it many Years ago.

Did you see it sufficiently to know the Condition and the State of Management of the Poor placed in the Workhouse at Watford?
I have no Recollection of attending to any thing of the Sort; it was a good many Years ago; it was not my Duty to attend to it.

When you were appointed Committee-man, or Missionary of the Central Agricultural Society, did you not conceive it incumbent upon you to compare the working and Practice of the ancient Poor Law with the present?
Yes.

And you conceive yourself competent to do so, from your previous Knowledge of the working of the ancient Law?
Yes.

Where did you acquire your Knowledge of the ancient Law?
In the course of my Practice.

Did not that Practice at least go the Length of enabling you to judge of the Situation of the Poor in the Workhouse of your own Parish, of which you were an Officer?
There was no Workhouse in my Parish.

In Watford?
I had nothing to do with the Workhouse in Watford; I am speaking of Wickham Market now. Twenty Years ago we had a great Workhouse, an incorporated Workhouse, which I was the humble Instrument of getting dissolved, because the Poor cost a good deal more in the House than they did out of the House. I showed the Land Owners that they cost a great deal more in the House than they would without any such House to send them to; 271 In-door Paupers, on an Average of Twenty-four Years, cost 6*s.* 5¾*d.* each per Week, and about 1,200 Out Paupers at that Time cost only 1*s.* 9*d.* each per Week.

How were they treated in that Workhouse of which you obtained the Dissolution?
They were treated very well in the House.

Did you, either in Watford or in any of those Parishes in which you occupied yourself with the working of the Poor Law, ever hear Complaints by the Poor who considered themselves as not sufficiently relieved?
Yes; of course.

Was that frequent under the working of the ancient Law?
Not very frequent; sometimes we used to have Complaints.

How many Instances from your Investigation of the working of the present Law have you to adduce to the Committee of similar Complaints?
A very great Number.

You think they are more numerous and as credible as the Complaints under the former System?
Ten Times more numerous.

Are

Mr. John Lewin

Are you not aware that the Magistrates in Petty Sessions every Day of their Meeting received numerous Complaints from Paupers of the Conduct of the Overseers under the old System?

There were very few Complaints from our Parish. I do not know what other Parishes do.

Where is the Bench that Wickham Market is under?

Woodbridge.

Were you ever present at a Meeting of the Magistrates of Woodridge before the passing of the new Poor Law?

Yes.

Have you not seen numerous Paupers waiting to see the Magistrates to complain of the Overseers?

Not very numerous.

Have you not seen as many as Twenty at a Meeting?

No; I am very little in the habit of attending such Meetings.

Do not you know that in fact there used to be numerous Complaints made to the Magistrates of the Conduct of Overseers?

Not very numerous; I know there were some Parishes where they were numerous, but not others.

Will you say that during the Time that you had the Management of the Poor in Wickham Market you never had an Order signed by the Magistrate to give Relief to a Pauper?

Yes; I had an Order from the Magistrate to pay an extra Sixpence. I paid the Man, as Surveyor of Highways, 7*s.*, and the Magistrate ordered me to pay 7*s.* 6*d.*; and I took my Horse and rode to the Magistrate directly, and told him the Situation the Man was in, and that I would not pay the 6*d.* unless he could show me that I was compelled to do so; that I would rather spend £100 than pay that 6*d.*, because I considered that it was setting the Poor above the Parish Officers; and I showed the Magistrate in what Way I had administered the Relief. I also complained of the Scale that was referred to in a Note from the Magistrate, and I asked him if there was any Authority to make such a Scale, because I never took any further notice of the Scale than this; that if he was a good Character he never came down to the Scale, and if he was a bad one he never came up to it till he behaved better.

Did you relieve the Paupers according to their Character?

In some Measure. I reduced the Rates by encouraging the good, and punishing the bad.

You yourself employed a good many good Labourers, of good Character?

I employed some good Labourers of good Character. There were some that came to me with a bad Character, and went away with a good one.

In consequence of being employed by you they received Relief if they were of good Character?

Certainly not able-bodied Men.

Will you state that no able-bodied Men that you employed ever received any Relief while you were in Office?

I do not recollect.

Will you positively state that no able-bodied Men that you employed ever received Relief while you had the Administration of the Poor confided to you?

I have not positively stated any thing of the Kind.

You are not positive of the contrary, that there were no able-bodied Men that you employed that received Relief while you had the Administration of the Poor confided to you?

No.

You are not confident of that?

No, I am not; I do not think there were; there might be such a thing occasionally; I have no Recollection of it. There are a great many that were partially disabled.

Mr. John Lewin.

Whom you employed?
And others in the Parish.

Did you employ Labourers who, besi des the Pay you gave them, received Parish Relief?
Yes, several; partly disabled ones.

There were Persons in your Employment who received Parish Relief besides the Wages you paid them?
Yes, in addition to my Quota; I always had more than my Share besides the additional ones.

Do you recollect what Wages you gave them?
I gave them according to what I considered they were worth; and they were always at liberty to leave me whenever they could get better Wages.

But you do not recollect the Wages that you gave them?
I gave them in proportion to what they earned.

Do you recollect the Sums that you paid them?
I do not.

What did you pay an able-bodied Man for his Labour by the Week?
I paid different Wages. I paid some 5*s.* and 6*s.*; and some 9*s.* and 10*s.*: that is, I have employed young Lads at 3*s.*, 4*s.*, or 5*s.*, and 6*s.*; I have employed old Men at 3*s.*, 5*s.*, and 6*s.*

How much do you give able-bodied Labourers?
10*s.* a Week now; 9*s.* while Things were low: it was 8*s.* at one Time.

Was that the same Rate of Wages as that of other Farmers in the Parish?
Yes.

When you gave a Man 8*s.* a Week, supposing him to have a Wife and Four Children, how did he support himself?
I had no Man that had so little as 8*s.* that had a Family of that Sort. One Man that had a Family had 10*s.* a Week, or 10*s.* 6*d.*

Did not he receive some Relief from the Parish, in Flour or something of that Sort, for his Children?
Nothing. I never would consent to allow any Labourer any thing for Addition for his Family, without the Family went to work for the Money.

You are a Farmer and a Miller?
Yes.

Have you got any Farmer's Men at the present Moment; and if so, what is the highest Rate of Wages you give any Man in your Employment?
I gave One Man 10*s.* 6*d.* a Week, and another 10*s.* and his Cottage with his Harvest. His Wages were 10*s.* 6*d.* some Years ago. He is an old Servant, and he chose to have 6*d.* and his additional Money in Harvest to make up his Rent for his Cottage.

What is his additional Money in Harvest?
His Wages are about 5*l.* or 5*l.* 5*s.* for Five Weeks.

What is that Man that you have been speaking of; what is his particular Duty; is he a Carter?
Sometimes.

And therefore he works Seven Days in the Week?
He looks after his Horses.

Is not it the Practice in the Agricultural Districts, for Farmers to give more to their Carters and Shepherds than to any other Class?
No. Sometimes we hire Lads or young Men at less Wages for that Work, because the Work is not so hard.

You have stated that you give that Man 10*s.* a Week. Do you give him Harvest Money also?
Yes.

Mr. John Lewin,

What is the largest Number of Children that any of your Labourers at present has?
I do not know what Family that Man has. His is the largest Family there is.

Has he Four or Five Children?
I think he has Five.

A Wife?
Yes.

And he gets 10*s.* a Week and a Cottage; but he pays Rent for the Cottage?
Not out of the 10*s.*

But out of the 6*d.*?
Yes; he leaves the 6*d.* every Week for his Rent.

He gets 10*s.*, and pays you 6*d.* a Week for the Cottage?
His Wages are 10*s.* 6*d.*, and he leaves his 6*d.* per Week and his extra Harvest Money.

What is the Rent of the Cottage?
I think it is about 3*l.* 15*s.* or 3*l.* 18*s.*

You mean that the Amount of his Wages beyond 10*s.* a Week for the Five Harvest Weeks is applied to the Payment of his Rent?
Yes.

Then that Man, with a Wife and Five Children, subsists upon 10*s.* a Week, but he has his Cottage Rent-free?
No; his Wife goes to work very often, and the Children too.

How old is the eldest Child?
I do not know his Age; but he has One Boy that works upon the Farm at 1*s.* 6*d.* a Week; he may be Nine or Ten.

Is he not Twelve?
I do not know.

You have not made any Inquiry as to the Families or the Condition of the Labourers in your own Employment?
Yes, I have.

But you do not happen to know the Ages of those Children?
I do not know why I should.

Do you consider that Man very well off with 10*s.* a Week all the Year round, with his Cottage Rent free?
I do not think he is very badly off. He has certain Perquisites sometimes.

You consider that that Man is tolerably well off?
Yes.

Did that Family receive any Relief from the Parish prior to the new Poor Law Bill?
No, unless in case of Sickness.

Would he not have Relief now in case of Sickness?
Sometimes he might, and sometimes not.

Do you know any Instance of a Man with a Wife and Five Children, and only 10*s.* a Week, that does not have Medical Assistance if he is ill?
Yes; I think I have several Instances on Paper.

Was not that Man allowed a Doctor or a Midwife for his Wife when she was confined under the old System?
Yes.

Mr. John Lewin.

Therefore he was a Person that did receive Relief from the Parish during his Wife's Confinement?
I do not think he did.

Did he receive Medical Assistance, or the Assistance of a Midwife, at the Expense of the Parish?
That I do not recollect; I never recollect his applying for it.

How many Children do you think a poor Man can maintain, those Children not being able to work for themselves, out of the ordinary Wages in your Neighbourhood?
I cannot answer that Question, for we never made any Scale of that Kind.

Do you think he can maintain Eight Children?
Not without some Assistance. Our Plan of Assistance used to be to employ the Children, and if they could not earn much, to let them earn such Portion as they could; and sometimes, if they were small Children, and they could not earn the full Amount, the Overseer made as much as he could of them and allowed the Man something in Return for it.

And that is now put an end to?
Yes.

How then can a Man mantain his Family of Six Children upon the present Wages?
They cannot maintain them; they are half starving, many of them.

Does not that depend upon whether the eldest Child can work or not?
I understood the Question to refer to Cases where they are all maintained out of the Father's Wages.

You have stated different Rates of Wages at different Times; 8*s.* and 9*s.* and 10*s.* Have you the specific Years in which these Wages were given, assuming them to have been given to able-bodied Labourers?
Some 8*s.* and some 9*s.*, and some 9*s.* and some 10*s.*, I should have said.

In the Parish of Wickham Market?
It was not confined to the Parish, I always contended that we as Parishioners had no Right to combine, and say we would give so much Wages; and therefore some paid 8*s.* and some 9*s.* in 1835, when Things were very low; as they advanced some paid 9*s.* and some 10*s.*

What were they in 1830?
Some 8*s.* and 9*s.*, and some 9*s.* and 10*s.*, round the Neighbourhood.

Did you employ many Labourers?
Yes, for the Occupation I have been in. I have often had a Dozen or Twenty People at work; Double the Number that was ever employed on the same Land before I had it.

In the Summer, or in the Winter, or both?
Both; I generally have as many in the Winter as in the Summer. I have employed a great many when some others would not.

Your average Number was nearly a Dozen?
I dare say it was.

Were they able-bodied Men?
No; perhaps about Half of them sometimes.

What would have been the remaining Six; Lads or old Men?
Some of both, as they became in Want of Employment.

What have you put the Lads and old Men to do?
Sometimes they work on the Farm at one thing, and sometimes at another; sometimes getting up Turnips for the Cattle, &c. in the Winter Time.

Were the young Men able to thrash?
I have generally thrashed my Corn by Machine.

Could you employ any of them at Task Work?
Sometimes.

Mr. John Lewin.

What Sort of Task Work; Hedging?
Not often.

Copse cutting?
Very seldom. They generally work by the Day for me.

Will you mention any Instances in which you put them to Task Work?
One Man generally ties up the Hay and cuts it up for the Cattle, and he is paid extra for that, and he earns 1*s.* or 1*s.* 6*d.* or 2*s.* a Week for his Overtime.

The Question refers to single young Men?
I have none in particular at Task Work. We have a Custom of filling so many Carts of Muck; to fill Twenty is a Day's Work; and if the Lads filled Twenty I always paid them for a full Day's Work for that; the same as the Men.

None of your able-bodied Men were receiving Parish Relief?
None.

None of the Men that you were paying 9*s.* a Week to?
No.

Were they married Men?
One is a single Man; generally they were married Men.

Had any of those married Men Families?
Yes.

What sized Families?
One Man had Three Children at one Time, and he has Three now; and another has Five.

Had he 9*s.* a Week?
He had 10*s.* 6*d.*

When you were Parish Officer, was any Relief given to an able-bodied Labourer in consideration of the Size of his Family?
No; we never gave the able-bodied Labourers any thing that I recollect without they worked for it; and if they required any thing in consideration of their Family, we allowed some of the Children to work.

Had you a Labour Rate?
No.

There was an Agreement amongst you to divide the Labourers among you?
Yes.

But not by means of a Labour Rate?
No; I brought it forward in 1817 and 1818, and afterwards in 1821 and 1825. As additional Labourers came home to the Parish we shared them. The greater Part is occupied by Five of us, and we used to take the Labourers off to the best Employment we could find for them.

What was the utmost Sum given by any other Employer; did any of them give more than 8*s.* or 9*s.* or 10*s.* 6*d.*?
They seldom gave more than myself. Sometimes I was 1*s.* below them for a little while, and then I was 1*s.* above them.

Which do you think happened oftenest, that you were below or above the others?
I do not think there was much Difference upon the Average.

You stated that the Rates amount in your Parish to 20*s.* in the Pound?
The Rates altogether, including the Church Rates and the others.

At that Time had the System of Roundsmen been introduced into your Parish?
Not the System of Roundsmen, but it was the Custom for Men to go upon the Road.

Did you give a Man so employed very low Wages?
Yes.

Mr. John Lewin.

Would the Parish make it up sufficient for the Maintenance of his Family if he had not sufficient to maintain himself without Parish Relief?

They were paid sometimes by the Overseer and sometimes by the Surveyor.

What caused this great Amount of 20*s.* in the Pound for your Poor Rates?

It was the very small Number employed, and the heavy Workhouse Expenses and Out-door Allowances.

During the Time that your Poor Rates amounted to 20*s.* there were a great many Labourers out of Employment?

Yes; and we were called upon for a very heavy Demand to support the incorporated House and Expenses.

Were able-bodied Men sent to that Workhouse?

No; not many of them.

How did this Workhouse cost you so much?

We had but few Inmates in it, but there were certain out Allowances granted by the Board. It was under a Local Act.

Had you many People out of Work in the Winter before the passing of the present Act?

No; very few.

What was the Average in the Winter Time?

I cannot state any Average.

What is the Population of Wickham Market?

1,200.

Have there been more or less out of Employment since the passing of the new Poor Law?

Much the same.

You have stated that you are a Member of a Sub-Committee of the Central Agricultural Society to collect Evidence upon the Operation of the new Poor Law; were you Deputy Chairman of that Sub-Committee?

I was Deputy Chairman of the Committee, not Sub-Committee.

Have Wages been higher or lower since the new Poor Law?

The Wages have risen from the Price of Corn, but Wages do not give so much Food now as they did at the Time the new Poor Law came into operation.

Has the Poor Law Amendment Act any thing to do with the Price of Wages?

It has lowered the Wages very considerably.

The Price of Corn has risen since the Time of the passing of the new Poor Law?

It has.

Have the Wages risen in a greater Proportion than the Rise of the Price of Corn?

Not so much as the Price of Corn.

For that Reason you do not consider that the new Poor Law Act has done any thing towards the Rise of Wages?

No; I conceive quite the contrary; it has lowered the Wages.

You said that the ordinary Wages of the Country will not support a Man and Eight Children. Are there not many Men who, from some bodily Infirmity, have no Means of doing a full Day's Work?

Yes.

They can earn something, however?

Yes.

What are the Wages that you now give to Persons of that Description?

It depends upon what they are able to perform. Some are only able to earn 2*s.*, 3*s.*, and 4*s.*, a Week; and others 7*s.* or 8*s.*

Mr. John Lewin.

If they have a Wife and any Children, of course those Wages cannot be sufficient to maintain a Wife and Children?

No.

Formerly it was usual to make such Persons some Allowance from the Rates?

Yes.

Is that done now?

In some Instances it is.

Have you known Cases in your own Neighbourhood of able-bodied Labourers working at a lower Rate of Wages than that which is usual, in consequence of their extreme Disinclination to be sent to any Union Workhouse?

Yes; a great Number.

You have stated the Particulars of Susan Ling's Case; will you now state the Particulars of the Case of Jane Grayston? Have you any Paper to deliver in about it?

I have (*producing the same*).

When was it written?

This is a recent Paper.

Will you deliver it in?

The Witness delivers in the same; which is read, and is as follows:

"Jane Grayston, Widow (40); had Twelve Children, Seven alive: Susannah (18), in Service; Lydia (15), in Service; and Five at Home; Hannah (12); Mark and Jane (10), Twins; James (4); John (2). Lost her Husband about Two Years back; went to London and got Work and was taken ill and died in Five Days of Brain Fever; and after that was allowed Two Stone and a Half of Flour and 2*s.* 9*d.*, and soon after that her Brother (James Mayhew, Blacksmith, Alderton,) said, your Girl Hannah wants a Pair of Shoes, and I will take her home and keep her, (as he did Twenty-two Weeks,) and then you can save her Share of the Allowance, and get her some few Clothes and Shoes while she is gone. But the Second Week Richard Wigg (Relieving Officer) took away Half a Stone of Flour, and the 9*d.*, and at the End of the Twenty-two Weeks he gave me the Half Stone of Flour and 6*d.*, thus keeping 3*d.* out of the 2*s.* 9*d.* After this it was reduced to 2*s.*, and then to nothing, until her Father, who lived with her, died 15th January last. Then she had the 2*s.* per Week again, with the Flour, till last Tuesday, when she was ordered to the Board, and they asked her who paid the Guinea for her she had paid for a Licence to sell Beer. She told them she was not at liberty to mention the Person's Name, and they sent her out, and ordered her in again, and repeated the Question, and she answered the same again. They then asked if she could keep her Five Children. She said, No, she could not. 'They then said, 'Then here is an Order for you, and you may come into the Workhouse next Saturday; and she said, 'No, Gentlemen, I shall not.' They then said, they would have none of her Sauce. 'Go out.' She said, 'I know what you all are,—a Pack of Villains'; and tore their Order all to Atoms. Barclay said, 'Go out,' and 'Get out, 'Go along with you.' Thus the poor Woman was treated more like a Dog than a Christian; and after she got out she staggered against the Wall, and stood and cried for some Time, and did not know what she was to do when she got home. If she had brought Disgrace and Trouble on herself or the Parish she could have borne it, and felt she deserved it; but the losing her Husband and her Misfortunes altogether were brought on by Divine Providence, and she could not help it; and she is now left without any Resource, and almost broken-hearted with Grief, Distress, and Despair, and cannot tell what she is to do; as the last Time she applied to the Guardian he said he would go to the Board and look into her Case, and do all he could for her, and then never went for Six Weeks. Indeed he does not go for Two Months; altogether, perhaps, only Five or Six Times in the Year, and she declares she would die before she will go into the Workhouse; and as she has Friends in London she thinks she will go there to them and leave her Children, because if she is to be separated from them she may as well be 100 miles off as to see and hear their Sorrows, Distress, and Misery within the Walls of the dreary Prison Workhouse, where she would be herself a Fixture for a Life of Misery. She asked the Guardians of her Parish what she was to do 'You will give nothing, and I must not rob or steal; what! are we all to starve and perish?'

"(Signed) JANE GRAYSTON.

"Widow Grayston further states, that her Father had a Licence and brewed and sold a little Beer, and since his Death in January last old Mr. Flatt was kind enough to say she must get the Licence; if she could not find the Money he would see about finding the Guinea somehow or other, as he knew if she did not get a Shilling or Two, which is the

Mr. John Lewin.

most she ever would do on the Average, by selling a little Beer and Flour as she had done, she never could keep her Family out of the Workhouse. However as her Brother came and took the few Things her Father left and paid for the Funeral, Mr. Flatt thought he should pay the Guinea for the Year's Licence for her, as he did. This being the Fact she did not think the Board had any thing to do with it, neither did she like to tell them how it was paid. She had committed no Crime; why should she be sent to Prison?"

This is the Information that Jane Grayston gave you?
Yes; she gave me that in Confidence.

Did you receive any other Information upon the Subject of Jane Grayston from any body?
Yes; I have received several Accounts of it from different People, but I cannot recollect who, at several Times within the last Twelve Months; and, I think, some before.

Can you mention any body besides herself that gave you any Particulars about Jane Grayston?
I do not recollect just now.

Have you endeavoured to ascertain the Truth of this from any body else?
I think I have.

Can you mention the Name of any body whom the Committee can summon to give Evidence upon this Subject?
Mr. Robinson, I think, can give Information upon it.

What Evidence can he give; to what Effect?
That the Woman is badly off.

But not as to any of the Particulars stated by Jane Grayston?
No. I do not know that any body can state the Particulars.

So that Mr. Robinson can only speak generally to the Distress of the Family?
Nothing more that I know of.

Did you know this Woman before?
Yes; I have seen her several Times.

She lives at Tunstall?
Yes.

How far is that from where you live?
About Four Miles.

How long have you known her?
I am not sure whether she is one that came with others, Two or Three Years ago, to me or not.

Then your Acquaintance with her began in consequence of her coming to you to make Complaints about the Hardships she underwent, in consequence of your being the Deputy of the Society you have mentioned?
Her Grievances might have been stated to me by other Persons first.

Was that the Beginning of your Acquaintance with her when she came to you to state her Case of Hardship?
I think it was.

Have you any Doubt whether that was the Beginning of your Acquaintance with her?
Of course I can have no Doubt of that.

Have you inquired into her Character?
Yes.

What is her Character?
She is a very industrious hard-working Woman.

A Woman of respectable Character?
Yes.

Mr. John Lewin.

Is it a Beer Shop that she keeps?
She sells a very little Beer.

It is a Beer Shop?
She has a Licence of course.

Is it a licensed Beer Shop?
Yes.

You consider her a Woman of good Character?
Yes.

Do you consider that a Beer Shop is a very good Place for young Girls to live in? Do you think it is advantageous for Female Children, from Ten to Thirteen Years of Age, to reside with a Mother who keeps a Beer Shop?
I cannot see where else they can reside.

Do you think that a Beer Shop is a good Place of Education for Female Children?
I do not know that it is a bad one, with the Parents; I do not know why they should be any worse in a Beer Shop than out of a Beer Shop.

You do not think that bad Characters resort to Beer Shops?
I do not think more than to another Public House.

Do you think a Public House a very good Place for the Education of Female Children?
I do not think there is any Harm in it if they conduct themselves properly; any more in a Public House than a private one.

If a Beer Shop be a bad Place for the Education of Female Children, must not the Mother in the first place consider her Necessities and Means of providing for her Livelihood?
Certainly.

If she thought it was a bad Place for her Children, would she be justified in keeping a Beer Shop?
I conceive it was a Matter of Necessity for the Woman; the Neighbours all considered that she could not make more than 1*s.* a Week, and therefore the Beer Shop could not amount to any thing of material Consequence.

Under the former System, were you in the habit of selling any Flour to the Parish Officers for the Poor?
No.

Do you mean to say that you never sold any Flour to the Parish?
I do not say that; I sell Flour to any body that comes.

Now the Flour is purchased by Contract?
Yes.

Did you take any of the Contracts?
I took a Contract the first Part of the Time.

And not since?
No. I took a Contract when it first began, and there was delivered out Sixty Stone a Week to our Out-door Paupers, and that Sixty Stone was brought down to Nineteen and a Half, before I left it, in almost Six Months.

Do you mean the Parish, or in the Union?
I mean this as regards our Parish, which is within the Union.

Have you got that Contract still?
No.

How came you to lose it?
Another Person offered to take a Portion of it for less, and I never put in a Tender afterwards.

You stated that you are a Member of this Society, established in London, for the Purpose of inquiring into any Abuse of the new Poor Law?
No; it was to collect Facts and Evidence, to arrive at the Truth.

Mr. John Lewin.

You attended this Meeting in London?
I did.

Did you offer to inquire into the working of the new Poor Law in your Neighbourhood, and to state to that Society any Abuse that you found in the working of the new Law?
I offered no such thing; I was nominated.

Whom were you nominated by?
I do not know.

Were your Services to be gratuitous, or did you expect to have a Remuneration for your Services in collecting this Evidence?
Gratuitous, of course.

Have you been at any considerable Expense in travelling about the Country in looking into these different Cases, in order to report to this Board established in London?
Not any considerable Expense; I have been at some Expense. I have given the Poor Food when they have had nothing to keep them from starving, and from committing Acts of Depredation; and when any threatening Words have been used by them, I have desired them not to break the Law upon any Consideration whatever, and that if they did I could not be their Friend any longer.

Then you do not expect any Remuneration for your Trouble and your great Loss of Time from your Business?
No; I consider that I have been a great deal out of Pocket by it.

And you do not expect any Remuneration for it?
No.

Was there any Subscription entered into by the Society in London to defray the necessary Expenses attending that Society, such as the Expenses for the Secretary and the Treasurer?
There was nothing of that Sort in the Department that I undertook at all, directly or indirectly.

Is not the Earl of Winchilsea a Vice President of the Central Agricultural Society?
I believe the Earl of Winchilsea's Name was one.

Whom did you correspond with when you were collecting Facts and Evidence?
I brought them up with me at different Times.

Whom did you deliver them to?
I laid them before the Meetings.

Did you never send any up that you have not brought up?
Nothing more than what I have transmitted to Lord Stanhope.

Has Lord Stanhope had frequent Communications with you upon the Subject of the new Poor Law?
Yes.

Have you not a Number of Cases which are not mentioned in the Extracts of Correspondence which have been published?
A great Number.

Do you consider a Beer Shop Keeper not to be credible?
I consider that that Woman will tell the Truth as well as any other Person. I know no Harm in a Woman keeping a Beer Shop.

Now will you go to the Case of Widow Booth. Have you the Paper containing an Account for her Case?
Yes.

What is the Paper you hold in your Hand?
It is a Statement that the Woman made to me.

Is it signed by herself?
Yes; she made a Mark to it?

Was that communicated to you in Confidence?
It was.

Do you wish, in Justice to the Woman, to refrain from giving in some Part of it, thinking it may be injurious to her?
I do. I think the others I gave in may be very injurious to the Woman, and it is against my Wishes and Consent. I did not consider that I was delivering it in when I gave it to the Chairman, who, I understood, only asked me to let him look at it.

Was not it given to you for the Purpose of being communicated to this Political Agricultural Association?
Certainly not to communicate to any body but in Confidence.

What is the Object of her Statement?
I can take out the Facts as respects the Case and the Complaint of the Woman, and lay them before your Lordships.

Are there any Facts to which you would be enabled more distinctly to speak by referring to that Paper than you would if you gave them merely from your own Recollection?
Yes.

But those Facts are mixed up with Observations which, on account of their being communicated to you in Confidence, you do not think it just to communicate?
That is true.

Was that Communication which you have delivered in made to you by Mrs. Graystone in Confidence?
Yes.

She being a Person of whom you had no Knowledge, how came she to place that Confidence in you?
I cannot answer for the Woman.

Was she invited to see you?
No, not by me; she might be by others; as the Poor often sent one another to me.

She came in consequence of its being known that you were collecting Evidence and Facts with respect to the working of the new Poor Law?
Yes, I suppose so.

You never knew her before?
No; not that I recollect.

And you think she told you these Things in Confidence?
She said particularly in Confidence. Several of them said, "I hope, Sir, that what I am stating to you will go no further; I state it in Confidence."

What was the Object of her making the Statement; why did she state the Facts, if they were to go no further?
I do not know.

Was it from the Fear of any thing occurring to her in consequence of having given this Information?
She told me that she was afraid she should suffer Injury if it was known that she said this.

Does she receive any Relief now?
No; but she has received and she hopes to receive something; she cannot live without it.

Did you ever show these Papers to any Person?
No.

They have never been communicated to any Person?
No.

Mr. John Lewin.

Not to Lord Stanhope?
The Paper containing these Cases of the Widows was drawn out from Memory, and I asked his Lordship to look it over, and to alter it as he thought fit, not altering the Facts; and if he thought it was worth publishing I would correct it and send it up again. The whole Matter was either a Mistake of Earl Stanhope's or mine in not sufficiently explaining this to Earl Stanhope before they were handed to him. These poor Women begged that I would not state the Thing any further, and I did not wish the Papers to be put in.

Then why did you produce them at all?
I did not deliver them in. I brought them to refer to; to bring to my Recollection the Answers to Questions that I expected to be asked.

Did it not occur to you that it was possible that the Reason why these Women might not wish these Statements to go any further might be lest those to whom they relate should have an Opportunity of detecting the Falsehood of them; for instance, that Mrs. Graystone might have desired you not to communicate them to anybody, in order to avoid the Chance of the Falsehood being detected?
No; I could not suppose that at all; it did not appear like that in any Way. As far as her Money Concerns went she seemed to wish me to speak about it; but no further.

Do not you refer to this Paper for the Purpose of refreshing your Memory by a Memorandum made at the Time?
Certainly.

Did you take down this Paper immediately from her Mouth?
Yes; and after she had said several Sentences I read it over.

This Widow Booth, of Woodbridge; did you know the Woman herself before this Occasion?
No.

Do you know any thing about her but what she told you herself?
Yes; I have heard further Accounts several Times.

What do you mean by further Accounts; do you mean further Accounts upon the Subject Matter of the Complaint she made to you?
Yes.

What is her Christian Name?
I do not know; Widow Booth she is called. I think, Sophia.

You were understood to say that the Paper you were reading from was something you had taken down from her Mouth?
It was Part of it.

How do you mean Part of it; is there any Part of it which is merely your own Writing, or was the Paper signed by herself after it was written?
There are some Memorandums of my own; private Memorandums.

Was it from the Statements made to you by this Woman that you felt yourself authorized to write a Letter to Lord Stanhope?
It was from the Account I received of the different Widows, and others who knew their Situation.

Will you name those Widows upon whose Statements you felt yourself authorized to write the Letter you did write to Lord Stanhope?
I think there are Five.

Will you mention the Names of the Five Persons whose Statements you consider authorized you to write the Letter to Lord Stanhope?
The Widow Ling is one, Widow Booth was another, Widow Grayston was another, Smith was another, Widow Cotton, I think, was the other.

Can you name the Residences of the Two last you have mentioned?
Smith was at Tunstall, and Cotton at Wickham Market.

Mr. John Lewin.

Do you know any thing of the Cases of these Women beyond what you took down from their Mouths?
Yes; those in the Parish I do; Cotton I do.

Will you state, without referring to that Paper, what you know with respect to that Woman?
I cannot state all I know; I can state some Things; and I can state one thing about her Earnings, about her Children having earned 1*s.* 2*d.*; she lost 1*s.* 6*d.* first, and then 6*d.* more by the Relieving Officer paying her so much less.

Can you state her Name and her Age, and the Number of her Children?
I cannot state that without referring to my Paper; I can by doing so.

In the Letter that you wrote to Lord Stanhope you mentioned several Poor Widows, and you have now mentioned one of the Name Smith, who lives at Tunstall; was her Case one of those you mentioned in that Letter?
It is included in the first Part.

Will you point out whereabouts in that Letter you allude to the Case of Widow Smith?
Some of the Facts in this relate to Widow Smith, with regard to the Corn and the Clock.

The Letter states, "One of them after Harvest had got Four Bushels, which the whole Family had worked early and late for, and lived very hard all the Time, which was seized with her Clock for Rent, and she lost the whole;" does that refer to Smith?
Yes.

"And in addition to this, her late Husband's Father, aged Ninety, lay at the Point of Death in a Cottage not far from us, and required constant Attention." You then state, "She had then got Work at 6*d.* per Day, 3*s.* per Week in the Fields, and the Relieving Officer made her give up her Work to attend on the Poor old Man, for which he would only give her 1*s.*" All that refers to Smith?
Yes; and still further on relates to her.

"She pleaded hard to be paid as a Nurse for him, and said she could not afford to neglect her Work and lose her 3*s.* per Week and leave her Children without Bread; but he said if she did not like to take the 1*s.* he would get an Order and send him to the Workhouse, for they could keep him cheaper there, and actually stopped his scanty Pittance for a Week, and would have sent him on his Death-bed at Ninety, if the poor Widow had not saved him by attending on him a Month for the 1*s.*, when he died." All that refers to the Widow Smith?
Yes, and perhaps more; I am not certain.

Who was that Relieving Officer?
Richard Wigg.

What Part of this Letter refers to Widow Booth?
With regard to the Number of Children and losing her Allowance.

The first Two Paragraphs apply to her?
Yes; the Part about the Allowance refers to Widow Cotton.

What Part of it refers to Widow Cotton?
The Earnings of the Children in the Second Paragraph.

You say you know Widow Cotton?
Yes.

Can you speak to the Facts of those Earnings from your own Knowledge?
I can speak to the Facts by hearing them from herself, and from the Master that paid the Money.

What is the Master's Name?
Stephen Leake.

Mr. John Lewin.

Is he a Farmer at Wickham Market?
He is a Basket Maker, and he has an Osier Ground at Wickham Market. He employed the Widow Cotton's Two Children, when they earned, I think it was, 1*s.* 2*d.*

Do you know that of your own Knowledge?
I know that the Master told me so.

In the Sixth Page you say, "One poor Widow reports she had 1*s.* 6*d.* a Week," and so forth; who does that refer to?
To Widow Barker.

Where does she live?
In Wickham Market.

She states that she had 1*s.* 6*d.* allowed her under the old Law; do you know that Fact yourself?
Yes; it came through my Hands to pay to the Woman; I paid it to her, and I had a great deal of Difficulty to get the Money after the Poor Law came in.

You say that "She had 1*s.* 6*d.* a Week allowed her under the old Poor, but since the new Poor Law has not had any thing now; she is near Seventy Years of Age."?
It should be between Sixty and Seventy.

"She is near Seventy Years of Age and wants it more than ever she did; she is obliged to sell some Part of her Household Goods to buy Bread when she cannot get Employment." Do you speak of that Fact of your own Knowledge?
From the Woman.

You have never seen the Things sold, or seen them in anybody else's Possession having been sold?
No.

Now as to the next, "Another poor Widow, above Seventy, had Seven Pounds of Flour per Week and 6*d.*" Who is that Woman?
I cannot find the Name, it is in the Parish of Eyke; but I can find it.

Can you get the Name if you have not it now?
Yes.

Here is "Another poor old Woman at the Age of Seventy-seven had a paltry Pittance of 1*s.* 6*d.* per Week taken entirely away and left to starve for Three Months, to torment and torture her till she would produce her Husband's Indentures, who had gained his Settlement by being apprenticed to a Bricklayer above Forty Years before." Who is that Woman?
That Woman lives in the Parish of Hacheston, within 200 or 300 Yards of my House; her Name is Elizabeth Green. After the Thirteen Weeks she had 1*s.* 6*d.* for some Time, and now 2*s.* per Week.

You say, "This proved to be, what most of these Impositions practised now upon the most helpless Poor are, only an Excuse or a mere Subterfuge for saving the Money; as it was clearly proved that the whole of the principal Parishioners knew all the Time that her Husband left her with his Tools and Indentures Forty-seven Years back in Search of Work, and she never heard of him from that Day to this." Do you, amongst other Persons, know that Fact?
I only know that from living by the Woman for the last Twenty-five Years; I know that she has been without her Husband, and that she has brought up her Family.

Then you say, "A poor agricultural Labourer with a Wife and Twelve Children, with Seven of them at Home, and who, under the Practice of the old Poor Law, was entitled to Employment for all his Children that were able to work, or some Allowance from the Parish Officers to assist him, which was only just enough to find them Bread till he could find Employment again for his Children; this Man reports that he was told there was a new Poor Law coming

Mr. John Lewin.

coming into Practice that would benefit the Poor, raise Wages, &c., make them independent, &c., and was delighted to hear it; but soon after it was put into Practice his eldest Son, aged Twenty-one, and Two other young Men, aged Twenty-five and Eighteen, could not get Work; and when they went for Relief they were sent to the Prison Workhouse, where they were half starved and tormented with irksome Treatment, and driven out again, and went for some Time without Work, Wages, or Food, except what their poor Friends and Neighbours gave them out of Charity, and of course they were glad to get Work." Who is this Agricultural Labourer with a Wife and Twelve Children?
Robert Airey.

Where does he live?
At Easton.

Do you know any of the Facts about this Man from your own Knowledge, or is it only what you have heard from himself?
Only what I have heard from himself.

With respect to these young Men of the Age of Twenty-five and Eighteen; who are they?
I am not certain whether I have seen them or not.

What are their Names?
I believe they are a Family of the Name of Wicks.

Brothers?
The Men were Brothers, I think.

Are you sure?
I am not quite certain.

The whole Story that these Men tell about their going to Yorkshire or Lancashire is only what you get from themselves?
Yes.

Then lower down in Page 7, you say, "One of these Men has been a Soldier and served his Country Five Years, and always maintained his usual good Character, and very lately could only obtain One Day's Work, 1*s.* 6*d.*, to keep Nine of them a Week. He applied to the Relieving Officer, who would not grant him an Order, as he said the Board of Guardians had nothing to do with him; and he also applied to the Overseer, Churchwarden, and the nearest Magistrate in the next Parish; but he could not obtain Justice or Relief or Protection against this cruel Oppression." Who is that Man?
Robert Avey.

The same Man?
The same Man.

Is that the Father, Robert Airey?
Yes.

And the same Relieving Officer you have mentioned before, Wigg?
No.

What is his Name?
Manning Keer.

Those are all the Cases that you mention in this Letter to Lord Stanhope?
I am not quite certain whether there is not a Man of the Name of John Woods alluded to in some Part of it; and George Airey, Easton, who is Brother of Robert Airey, is the other Labourer alluded to.

Where does he live?
John Woods lives at Sutton.

What Part applies to him?
I am not quite certain that it does, or that it does not; but I mention it in case your Lordships should wish to call for him. I have some much stronger Cases than any of those, I conceive. Perhaps I could put them into a short Compass. If your Lordships will allow me Time, I will put them in Writing, and deliver them in.

Mr. John Lewin.

You were understood to say that you took this Paper which you have delivered in from Widow Grayston's Mouth, and that it was read to her after it was written by you, and that she signed it, concluding with an Offer to authenticate the whole Statement on Oath?
Yes, she supposed it would be privately; I told her that I might call upon her to prove her Statement upon Oath, and if I did I should send for her.

By what Authority did you tell her that you would examine her privately upon Oath upon this Subject?
I had no Authority; I asked her if she would come to me again, and I supposed I might ask any proper Person to administer an Oath to her to see if it was correct.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Rev. G. S. Bull.

The Reverend GEORGE STRINGER BULL is called in, and examined as follows:

YOU are a Clergyman of the Church of England?
I am.

Have you any Cure of Souls?
I am Incumbent of Bierley.

That is near Bradford in Yorkshire?
It is.

How many Miles from Bradford?
A Mile and a Half.

Did you attend a Meeting the Proceedings of which were reported in the Times Newspaper of the 8th of February 1837?
I did.

Where was that Meeting held?
At Bradford.

Whereabout in Bradford?
At a Church Sunday School Room.

Is that a large Place?
I should conceive that it is capable of containing about 600 or 700 Persons.

Was it quite full?
I believe it was.

Was that the only Meeting that you have attended on the Subject of the new Poor Law?
No.

Have not you attended Meetings in the open Air sometimes?
I have.

More than once?
More than once.

Was there a great Meeting held in that Neighbourhood in the Beginning of 1837?
There was a large Meeting held close by the Court House in the open Air in March 1837, which, I attended, and at which Mr. Thompson and Mr. Paley, Two of our Magistrates, were also present.

Was there a great Assemblage of People on that Occasion?
A very large Assemblage.

How many are supposed to be present?
It was estimated at 5,000 Persons by some, and at a larger Number by others.

Was

Was not there a still larger Meeting afterwards, somewhere in the Neighbourhood of Gummersall? *Rev. G. S. Bull.*

There was a very large Meeting held at Hartshead Moor. I was at that Meeting, but took no Part in it.

To return to the Meeting at the Schoolhouse at Bradford; by whom was that Meeting called?

To the best of my Recollection by a Requisition of the Constables. I have not a clear Recollection as to the Requisition.

Were you one of the Requisitionists?

If so, I was.

What was the Proposition to be discussed at that Meeting?

To take into consideration the Subject of the new Poor Law.

You spoke upon that Occasion?

I did.

Did you state, in the Course of your Speech, to this Effect: "But I will produce Testimony of another Kind. Here stands before you a poor Cripple whom I Yesterday met with in this Town; a Friend has mercifully delivered him from sharing the Terrors of the Guardian, ay, the Guardian System of the new Union Workhouse in the South." Do you remember saying that?

Yes; to that Effect.

Did you proceed to say, "His Mother is a poor Widow and receives for one of her Family a single Loaf as Out-door Relief. Was it not for Fear of her losing that single Loaf of Bread, I would now give you Names and Places, but the poor Lad's Friends request me not to do so; but, Sir, I will tell you their Names confidentially, and show you my Proofs." Is that a correct Representation of what you said?

It is.

And then "The Boy also stated, that a young Woman in that House had been stripped, flogged on her naked Back like a Soldier, with a Whip having Eight or Nine Lashes"?

The Witness is cautioned by the Committee that, as the Charges contained in this Passage if not true would render him liable to a Prosecution for a Libel, he may, if he pleases, be allowed to decline answering the Question.

The Witness professes his Readiness to speak, according to his Oath, "the whole Truth," but accepts the Suggestion of the Committee to consider whether he shall answer the Question or not; and he is informed by the Committee, that his Examination shall be postponed till Friday, in order to give him Time to consider.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Mr. WILLIAM DAVID BELL is called in, and examined as follows: *Mr. W. D. Bell.*

YOU are Secretary to the Bourn Board of Guardians in Lincolnshire?

I am.

Are you a Solicitor?

I am.

Did a Man of the Name of Marvin, living at Morton in the Bourn Union, ever apply to the Board or to the Relieving Officer for Relief in the Month of November last?

Not that I am aware of; but I have the Application and Report Book with me.

Will you refer to that, and see whether, in the Month of October or November, a Man of the Name of Marvin of Morton, applied to you for Relief; the Man being said to be of the Age of Fifty, and to have a Daughter of the Age of Twenty-two?

There is an Entry here, on the 23d of November, of Edward Marvin, an

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Application for Funeral Expenses; it was an Order for Funeral Expenses which had been given by the Relieving Officer, and which came before the Board to be confirmed, and was confirmed.

But there was no Application from the Man in the Month of October or November for Relief?
No.

Did you happen to know the Man at all?
I did.

Do you live at Bourn?
I do.

Did you know the Man personally?
I did.

What Sort of Man was he in Character?
A very bad Character.

A Man given to drinking?
To drinking very much.

And ill-conditioned in other respects?
Very much addicted to bad Language.

That was generally his Character?
That was his Character; that he was a Man of exceedingly bad Character in every respect.

Do you know what Family he had?
He had only Two Children.

Was his Wife alive?
His Second Wife was alive, by whom he had no Family.

Were both the Two Children by his former Wife living with him?
One of them, a Boy, at the Time of his Death (I believe on the very Day of his Death), was sent to the Union Workhouse; the other, a Daughter, was sentenced to Transportation for Felony at the Bourn Sessions.

How came he to be sent to the Workhouse; had he applied for Relief himself, or had the Father applied for him?
I believe he was found in a State of Destitution, his Father having abandoned or neglected to provide for him.

How old was this Boy?
John Marvin, on the 23d of November (the same Day on which an Application was made for his Father's Funeral Expenses), an Order had been given for his Admission into the House by the Relieving Officer or Overseer, which was confirmed on the 23d of November; his Age is Sixteen, and therefore he would be considered not as a Member of his Father's Family, but as able-bodied.

Do you know the Fact of Edward Marvin, the Father, having a Pension?
I have always understood that he had a Pension of *5d.* or *5½d.* a Day, if I may be allowed to state what I know upon the Authority of the Overseer of the Parish. I have questioned him upon the Subject, and I have with me the Substance of his Statement.

Did the Overseer tell you that Edward Marvin had ever applied to him for Relief?
Yes; for Relief or Work.

At what Time?
I am speaking now from the Statement made by Mr. William Kenny, the Overseer; who says, that he remembers the deceased and his Wife applying to him, as Overseer, a few Days before his Death; thinks it was on Monday the 13th of November. That he (Kenny) knew the Deceased had received his Quarter's Pension only a few Days before, and that his Wife had bought

Two

Two or Three new Gowns, which have been made up since his Death by a Dressmaker at Morton; he therefore told them they could not want Money as "Ted" had so lately received his Pension. *Mr. W. D. Bell.*

Did the Overseer state to you that he had said any thing to him about going into the Workhouse?
I do not think I have any Statement to that Effect. His Answer to that Observation of the Overseer's was, that "Hannah (meaning his Wife) had got the Pension;" and she (his Wife) said he had promised her it to buy her some Clothes, and that it was no Business of his (the Overseer's).

There is nothing about going into the Workhouse?
No, I do not appear to have any Account of it; he appears to have been refused that Relief altogether, upon the Ground that he had so recently received his Pension, and therefore could not be destitute.

The next Case in your Union is the Case of a Man of the Name of Camm; do you know that Person?
I know him by Sight.

Do you know of his applying to the Board for Relief?
Yes; he has been twice in the Workhouse.

When?
He was in the Workhouse first for Eleven Days; he was admitted on the 14th of September and discharged on the 26th, and he was admitted again on the 9th of November and discharged on the 22d of December; Eleven Days upon the first Occasion, and Forty-four upon the second.

Did he go out of his own Accord the last Time?
Of his own Accord on both Occasions, at his own Request, and I believe for the Purpose of receiving his Pension. He was a Pensioner also; he had 6*d.* a Day.

He had his Family with him while he was in the Workhouse?
Yes.

How many did they consist of?
His Wife and Four Children, making Six Persons.

You say he went out on the 22d of December. When would he receive his Pension?
I suppose about Christmas.

You do not happen to know the Day they receive their Pensions?
No. They receive them from the Collector of Excise, and it depends upon when his Sittings happen to be. He applied to the Board on the 21st of December for Leave of Absence.

He being then in the Workhouse?
He being then in the Workhouse, for the Purpose (as the Master of the Workhouse stated to the Board) of receiving his Pension; and that Leave of Absence was refused, and he therefore gave the usual Notice and went out.

Then he thought that if he remained in the Workhouse he would not receive the Pension himself, but it would be assigned to the Parish?
Precisely. It has been repeatedly assigned to the Parish before the Union, and I think once since.

Did you hear of him about the 1st or 2d of January in any Way?
No; there is no further Application to the Board of Guardians, or to any Officer of the Board of Guardians; but on this Day Week, the 7th of May, he applied again to the Overseer of the Parish for an Order of Admission, which he received. He brought the Order to the House, and gave it to the Master of the Workhouse, stating his Desire to be readmitted, but that he could not prevail upon his Wife to come in. The Master told him that he could not admit him alone, that he must bring his Wife with him, and advised him to

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endeavour to prevail upon her; he afterwards returned, and repeated his own Wish to go in, but that he could not prevail upon his Wife. Consequently those are the only Times he has been in the House.

Do you know any thing of his being taken up for sleeping in an Outhouse of Lord Willoughby's?

Yes; it was by my Advice. He became exceedingly troublesome, both he and his Family, at Grimsthorpe Castle, and Lord Willoughby sent down to me. His Bailiff wrote a Note to me, at Lord Willoughby's Request, to know what could be done with him. I do not apprehend that that Note was written to me in the Capacity of Secretary to the Board of Guardians, but I have the Honour to be occasionally consulted by Lord Willoughby, and upon the Constable who looked about the Premises asking his Lordship what was to be done with this troublesome Family, his Lordship directed the Constable to apply to me for Advice. The Constable in consequence requested the Bailiff (a Mr. Scott) to write a Note to me, which was put into my Hands by the Guardian of the Parish of Edenham during a Meeting of the Board; I happened to be particularly engaged at the Time, and I said I had not Time to write, but I requested him to have the goodness to inform his Lordship that, as he was a Magistrate, and as the Man was constantly committing Acts of Vagrancy and Trespass, I was of opinion that, either under the Trespass Act or under the Vagrant Act, he might be committed; and I advised that that Course should be taken; and that if his Lordship, on account of the Trespass being committed upon his own Property, did not think right to take that Course himself, I had no Doubt any other Magistrate would. In consequence of that Advice he was taken before the Magistrates at Bourn.

Who were the Magistrates?

One of them (as I am informed) was the Reverend Mr. Waters; I am not certain about the other, but I believe it was the Reverend Mr. Hildyard; and I understood from the Constable that the Case was dismissed, upon the Ground that there was no Act of Trespass of which the Magistrates could take cognizance, and that they were of opinion that a Man could not be a Vagrant in his own Parish; and that although it was stated that the Pauper and his Family even walked into the House asking for Victuals, and he himself repeatedly waylaying Lord Willoughby, and insisting upon seeing him, yet the Magistrates were of opinion that all this did not empower them to commit him as a Vagrant.

Were you present when he was before the Magistrates?

I was not present, but I had the Information from the Constable who was present.

He did not tell you that the Man was told that he must go into the Workhouse if he could not get Shelter anywhere else?

I believe the Magistrates endeavoured to prevail upon him to go into the House.

Do you know what Answer he made to that?

I believe he stated to the Magistrates, and he also stated to the Constable, that he would rather throw his Children into the Fishpond than go in again.

And cut his own Throat?

No; I asked him as to that Expression, but he said he did not remember that. As they were quitting the Justice Room one of the Magistrates, (Mr. Waters, I think,) said, "he did not mean any thing by that, I dare say;" and Camm said "No, Sir; I did not mean so." I asked the Constable whether he was in the habit of making use of Threats or Language of that Kind, and I ascertained from him, and also from Mr. Grummitt and Mr. Hodgkin, who are highly respectable Farmers and large Occupiers under Lord Willoughby (upon questioning them as to the Man's general Character and Language), that it is almost his ordinary Mode of speaking, and they were of opinion that whenever he made use of such Threats it was more for the Purpose of Intimidation than any thing else.

Did

Did his Wife beg that they might be committed to the House of Correction at Folkingham rather than go into the Workhouse? *Mr. W. D. Bell.*
I did not hear that.

Was this Man, Camm, a very ill-conditioned Man?
I have inquired as to the particular Necessity there might be for his receiving Relief either in or out of the Workhouse, and I will state the Result of the Inquiry as to what he is capable of earning the Year through if he were an industrious Character.

Is he an able-bodied Man?
He is not strictly so; I believe he is afflicted with Rheumatism. But, upon my very closely questioning the Assistant Overseer, Mr. Hebblewhite, who perfectly well knows his Character and his Capabilities, he states thus: first there is the Pension of 3*s.* 6*d.* a Week, then he has no Doubt that he could, on the Average of the Year through, earn 1*s.* 2*d.* a Day, which is 7*s.* a Week; then there is his Son, who is capable of earning 6*d.* a Day or 3*s.* a Week, and those Sums put together would amount to 13*s.* 6*d.* He says, that he is perfectly capable of earning that, if he were disposed; and then, with regard to his actual Earnings, I have borrowed of this same Person this Book, which shows that as lately as last Saturday he was earning 1*s.* 6*d.* a Day.

Do you know that he was earning 1*s.* 6*d.* a Day during the Winter?
No; but the Statement is, that there is no Doubt that he could, upon the Average of the Year through, earn 1*s.* 2*d.*; that is from 1*s.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* a Day.

Do you know what appears upon his Paper as to the Cause of his Discharge from the Army?
I have not seen it.

You say One Child can get 3*s.* a Week; could either of the others get any thing?
I suppose not.

What are the Ages of these Children?
There are Four Children; Three Boys and One Girl; aged Twelve, Eight, Three, and One; so that it is the Boy aged Twelve who earns 6*d.* a Day.

In what Way was this Man treated when he was in the Workhouse?
The same as all other Paupers of the same Class. For the Satisfaction of the Committee, and in order to ascertain the Facts in the best and most impartial Way I could, I, Yesterday Afternoon, before I set off upon my Journey, went down to the Workhouse unknown to the Master, certainly without his knowing that I was in the House, and I took down the Names of all the Paupers who are now there, and who were there at the Time Camm was. I have down, if your Lordships wish it, the Names of Nine different Paupers who were there at the same Time, every one of whom I asked most particularly as to whether Camm during his Residence there had ever alleged any Complaint of Ill-treatment, either personally or with reference to any Part of his Family. The Answer of every one of those Parties was, that they never heard any such Complaint on his Part, and One of them went on further (a Man named John Booth) to state that about Three Weeks ago he (Booth) was at work in the Garden, and that Camm and his Wife went by from Work, and that Camm upon that Occasion entered into Conversation with him, stating that he should like to come into the House again, but that he could not prevail upon his Wife; and she said she would not come in again unless she was forced.

How long had he been living this vagrant Life?
I do not know on what Day he was brought before the Magistrates, not having been present.

Do you know of his having had any Cottage of his own previously; before he came into the Workhouse the first Time?
I am not aware that he had been committing any Act of Vagrancy before that.

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Had he had a Residence of his own?
Yes; he had been Tenant to a Mr. Hall of Folkingham, occupying a Cottage at Swanstead, which is the adjoining Parish to Edenham.

Was he there in the habit of earning his own Livelihood?
Occasionally; I cannot speak particularly to that; his Habits have always been dissolute.

Do you know whether he was turned out of his Cottage?
I believe he was distrained upon for the Rent.

Is he a drunken Man?
Very drunken when he can get it, and so violent in his Conduct and Conversation, that upon One Occasion, before the Union was formed, he actually, with most dreadful Imprecations, struck the then Overseer, Mr. Hodgkin, to the Ground.

During the Winter was there any Occasion upon which between Thirty and Forty Men applied for Relief at the same Time?
Never. I believe the Occasion alluded to was the 25th of January. Upon that Day the Number of able-bodied Labourers in the Parish of Bourn who applied for Relief was Sixteen. I have here a List of them extracted from the Application Book with a Column for Observations, in which every one of them, with their Wages and other Particulars, are specified. I have made particular Inquiry, from a Source which I can entirely rely upon, viz., the Vice Chairman of the Board of Guardians, who is the most considerable Occupier and Charge-bearer in the Parish, as to the particular Circumstances and Characters of those Sixteen Persons.

On the Day on which those Sixteen applied, were there many other Applications from other Parts of the Union?
I can hardly answer that without going through every one of the Thirty-seven Parishes; but I may state generally that there were not. The large Number of Applications was from Bourn. I was present at the Board and remember the Circumstance.

Did they come in a Body?
The Men were requested, as the Answer must be uniform, for them all to come up altogether.

They had previously applied to the Relieving Officer?
They had.

And he desired them to come up to the Board?
Yes. One of those Sixteen Men was labouring under temporary Sickness, and the Order in his Case therefore (being an Exception to the prohibitory Rule) was, that that Man, Thomas Kettle, (who though an able-bodied Man generally, in respect of Age and so on,) being sick at the Time, was that he be allowed 4*s.* in Money, and Six Loaves during Sickness; so that there were only Fifteen to whom the House was offered.

What Family had he?
A Wife and Three Boys, aged respectively Four Years, Two Years, and Two Months.

He was allowed 4*s.* a Week, and Six Loaves?
Yes; and Medical Attendance during Sickness. With the Permission of your Lordships I will hand in the Observations of the Vice Chairman as to the Circumstances of those Fifteen Applicants.

The Witness delivers in the same; which are read, and are as follow:

BOURN UNION.

NAMES and FAMILIES and other Particulars of able-bodied Men, belonging to the Parish of Bourn, who applied to the Board of Guardians on the 25th January 1838.

Name of Applicant.	Age.	Single, Married, or Widower.	Number and Particulars of Family.			Average weekly Earnings or other Income.	Remarks.
			Boys.	Girls.	Ages.		
						s.	
1. Porter, William -	32	M.	- -	1	1½ Year.	7	
2. Drakard, Wilcox -	36	M.	3	2	9 Years, 8 Do., 6 Do., 4 Do., 2 Do.	12	A Gardener, and generally employed at 2*s.* 6*d.* a Day.
*3. Morton, Thomas -	38	M.	3	1	10 Years, 7 Do., 5 Do., 10 Weeks.	14	Viz. from 12*s.* up to 20*s.* Both in regular Employment at 2*s.* 3*d.* a Day until Saturday the 20th of January, and had fresh Work offered them in the Board Room.
4. Lunn, William -	38	M.	- -	3	12 Years, 6 Do., 3 Do.	14	
†5. Bell, Charles -	25	M.	- -	- -	- - - -	- -	A loose Character. Applied to the Overseers for Relief on a Saturday, as he was about to be married on the following Tuesday, and again on the Saturday following.
6. Mason, John -	25	M.	- -	- -	- - - -	- -	A Poacher. Earnings of this Man and Bell very uncertain.
*7. Cant, John - -	26	M.	- -	- -	- - -	- -	A Poacher. Discharged from Prison a few Days previous to 25th January. (*a*)
*8. Taleby, John -	54	W.	- -	- -	- - - -	14	A good Workman, and seldom or never unemployed. Earns 20*s.* a Week in Harvest.
9. Kettle, Thomas -	31	M.	3	- -	4 Years, 2 Do., 2 Months	-	In regular Work when in Health. Ordered Out-relief on account of temporary Sickness.
†10. Askew, John - -	33	M.	- -	4	5 Years, 4 Do., 2 Do., 11 Months.	12	Viz. from 10*s.* to 16*s.*
11. Bell, Joseph -	23	M.	1	2	5 Years, 2 Do., 6 Months	12	Brother to Charles (supra). Ordered Medical Relief on the 11th of January.
*12. Willoughby, Samuel	38	M.	2	- -	13 Years, 9 Do. - -	14	In Harvest 22*s.* or 23*s.* A superior Workman, and very seldom unemployed.
*13. Crampton, George -	31	M.	3	- -	7 Years, 3 Do., 7 Months	14	Seldom unemployed.
*14. Sharp, Samuel -	39	M.	3	- -	5 Years, 3 Do., 1 Do. -	- -	Often unemployed. Formerly a Housekeeper, and of intemperate Habits, but much reformed since the Date of the Union.—28th Dec. Ordered Medical Relief, and 4*s.* a Week Out-relief.—4th Jan. Relief discontinued.—11th Jan. House offered.—18th and 25th January, Ditto.
*15. Crampton, William -	39	M.	4	3	13 Years, 11 Do., 8 Do., 6 Do., 5 Do., 3 Do., 10 Months.	14	Very seldom out of Work. Trains and feeds fighting Cocks.
*16. Nixon, William -	26	M.	- -	- -	- - - -	9	A good Character, but not a first-rate Workman.

(*a*) N.B.—On further Inquiry as to this Fact, I find that these Two Persons, Mason and Cant (Nos. 6. and 7.), were respectively convicted and committed to the House of Correction by Major General Johnson, and that Mason was confined in the same Prison about Three Years ago on a Charge of Felony.

* Those marked thus appear to have been set to work by the Surveyor of the Highways on the Day after their Application to the Guardians.

† Those marked thus appear to have been set to work in the following Week.

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Was this Man Kettle capable at that Time of getting any thing by his own Labour?

No; he was not actually at work; but he was a Man, up to the Period of his Sickness, in very constant Employment.

But, when he was ill, he was so ill as to get nothing?

At this particular Moment he was out of Work through Sickness.

It states, "In regular Work when in Health. Ordered Out-relief on account of temporary Sickness."?

Yes.

How long did he continue to receive that Out-door Relief?

It appears to have been discontinued on the 8th of February.

In consequence of the Refusal of the Board of Guardians to relieve those Fifteen Men, do you know of any Subscription that was raised in the Town of Bourn for their Relief?

I can state exactly what took place. Immediately after the rising of the

Mr. W. D. Bell.

Board of Guardians, that Day, there was a Meeting, which had been very hastily called together, of the Parishioners. It was during the very severe Weather. I myself attended that Meeting, not, of course, officially, but as a Parishioner. It was rather a full Meeting considering that it had been called upon such short Notice. The officiating Minister of the Parish, Mr. Dodsworth, who is also a Guardian, was in the Chair. Mr. Osborn, the Vice Chairman of the Board of Guardians, was also there, and Mr. Hardwicke, another very large Charge-bearer and a Guardian.

How was the Meeting called?

At the shortest possible Notice; without any public Notice, otherwise than as one Neighbour told or sent for another, and so on. Some previous Proceedings of this Sort had been taken in the Town, probably, whilst the Board of Guardians were sitting. On my going to the Workhouse that Morning I either walked with or overtook the Chairman, Major Handley, and on arriving at the outer Gate of the Workhouse, there was a small Party of respectable Parishioners assembled, who came there, I believe, to ask the Board of Guardians to intercede with the Poor Law Commissioners to suspend the prohibitory Order. However that did not come regularly before the Board, inasmuch as the Chairman told them it was not for the Board of Guardians to interfere with the Commissioners; that if the Applicants thought they could make out a Case for such an Application they were at liberty to make it, but that the Course of the Guardians was plain before them; if there were Cases of individual Distress, he appealed to their private Charity to relieve it. This public Meeting took place immediately after the rising of the Board of Guardians, and amongst other Persons who attended it was Mr. Robert Munton the Surveyor of the Highways. It appeared that he and a Person named Redshaw (no doubt from very benevolent and good Feelings) had been canvassing the Town for voluntary Subscriptions for those alleged Cases of Distress; and I very well recollect Mr. Munton stating that their Circumstances were so urgent that it did not even admit of the Delay of a Day. Very little however was said at the Meeting about the Necessity of any voluntary Subscription, because Mr. Osborn the largest Charge-bearer in the Parish, and who would therefore pay the largest Amount of any Rate which might be raised, himself took the lead, and moved, (not knowing the State of the Surveyor's Account at the Time,) that a Three-penny Highway Rate be allowed, understanding that there was ample Employment in raising and breaking Stone if there had been Funds; that in point of fact very little Stone was got up, and as there could not be sufficient Agricultural Work to do in the then State of the Weather, he therefore moved that a Three-penny Highway Rate be allowed. The Surveyor had already had a 1*s.* Rate; but I believe it was taken for granted, from the Circumstance of his being himself the Person stating the Urgency of those Cases, that he had no Funds, and that therefore it was necessary to raise that Rate which Mr. John Osborn very disinterestedly proposed; and, in order that there might be no Delay in the Matter, he and One or Two other large Charge-bearers offered to lay down their Quota of the Rate instanter, without waiting for the Formality of its being made. A Committee was appointed by that Meeting to confer with and assist the Surveyor; I myself was not One of the Committee because my Engagements were too pressing to allow it; but the Committee met in the Evening to investigate into the most pressing Cases, and to decide upon those Men who should be first set to work. At that Meeting I am informed the Surveyor of the Highways produced his Accounts, which I now have before me, and from which it appears that at the very Moment when he was canvassing the Town for private Contributions and Subscriptions he had in his Hands a Balance of 44*l.* 15*s.* 2*d.*, with which he might of course have set all those People to work, there being (as I have stated) then very little Stone got up, and that therefore he had both Employment and the Means of paying for it. However the Three-penny Rate was granted, and it appears from the State of his Account that up to that Period, which comprised Ten Months of the Year, he had expended only at the Rate of 4*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* per Week, and that for the remaining Eight Weeks, having got this additional Rate, he expended at the Rate of 14*l.* 10*s.* per Week; plainly showing that there was ample Employment, and that there was Work to do.

Mr. W. D. Bell.

In fact the Inhabitants of Bourn agreed to a Rate, which would not otherwise have been necessary, in order to employ those Persons who had been refused Out-door Relief by the Board?
Yes.

Did you give Orders to those People to come into the House?
Yes; certainly.

Were those Orders made out and delivered to them; did they come into the Board-room?
They did.

All of them?
I will not positively say all.

Some of them did?
A great many of them did.

They were told that they could not be relieved out of the House, but that they might have Orders for themselves and their Families to enter the House?
Yes. They did not require to be told that, because, immediately on our receiving the Prohibitory Order in May 1837, we issued very largely a printed Notice to the Labouring Classes, apprizing them of it, and urging them to husband their Summer Wages.

In point of fact they were told that they might have Relief in the House, and there were Orders given?
It is not our Practice to deliver written Orders when the Order is made at the Board, because the Entry in the Application and Report Book is the Authority for the Master of the Workhouse receiving them.

Do you expect them to come in immediately?
They are at liberty to come in at any Time between that and the next Meeting of the Board; but, in point of fact, not one of them came in.

Was this Highway Rate made because the Men were out of Work, or because the Surveyor represented that he had no Funds to employ them?
I cannot take upon me to say that he actually asserted that there were no Funds, but it was taken for granted, because he himself had been the Person who had been soliciting voluntary Contributions.

But, whether he had Funds or not, the Parish consented to this Rate for the Purpose of setting those Men to work who had been refused Out-door Relief by the Board?
Undoubtedly.

Did you see those Men at work afterwards upon the Road?
No. Your Lordships will find a Note, at the Foot of that Statement, of the Persons employed in the first Week, and those employed in the after Week. Here is the Book which shows who were employed; the Surveyor's Book.

You do not know whether there were other Persons set to work by means of that Rate in consequence of the Refusal of Out-door Relief to those Fifteen Men?
Here is the Book.

Can you state the Names?
This is the weekly Account of Money expended upon the Highways from the 26th of January to the 1st of February inclusive. Some of the Names appear to come twice, the same Persons being employed upon different Kinds of Work. Twenty-eight Persons appear to have been employed in that Week, if I have counted right.

In the Week previous to these People being employed how many were employed?
Twenty-four; that was in the Week ending the 26th of January.

Mr. W. D. Bell.

Of those Men that applied to the Board there is one of the Name of Thomas Morton and another of the Name of William Lunn; were they offered Work in the Board Room?

They were. They had been at work for Mr. Hardwicke up to the preceding Saturday, and they were both offered Work again in the Board Room; I think one by Mr. Osborne and the other by Mr. Hardwicke, or both by one of them.

Have those People ever come back to the Board since?

I believe not.

And none came into the House?

No.

Did the Men who were offered Work in the Board Room accept that Work?

It appears that Morton was employed by the Surveyor for One Week, and also William Lunn; Thomas Morton appears in the First Week and also in the Second Week of the Surveyor's Book.

Was there any great Sensation in the Town of Bourn when those Persons were refused Relief; thinking it harsh Conduct upon the Part of the Guardians?

Nobody could think it harsh on the Part of the Guardians, because every body was aware that the Guardians have not the Power to do it.

Was there a general Impression that the Operation of the Law in that Instance was severe?

I believe there was an Opinion, generally entertained, that, considering the protracted Length of the severe Weather, there ought to be that dispensing Power; but the Guardians did not feel themselves called upon to apply to the Commissioners upon the Subject.

The Names you have given in are the Names of Persons who applied upon a certain Day for Relief out of the Workhouse?

They applied for Relief generally.

Were they generally Men of good Character and industrious Habits, and had they been employed previously to that Time?

They were very various. Two of them were convicted Poachers; those Two Men had been convicted by General Johnson himself; they were just come out of Prison.

There were Fifteen of them?

Yes.

They were subsequently employed upon the High Roads, upon a Highway Rate being levied for the Purpose, in Ignorance that there was Money in the Hands of the Surveyor?

Precisely.

If then anybody has stated that there were Thirty Persons upon that Occasion who were in this destitute and unemployed State, whoever has so stated must have been misinformed?

I conceive so. It appears that Twenty-four Persons were at work upon the Road in the preceding Week.

You have stated, that upon the Week after the Levy of this increased Road Rate there were Twenty-eight employed, and that in the preceding Week there were Twenty-four employed, therefore the Increase was Four?

Yes.

Then if any Person has stated that there were Thirty so employed, in consequence of the peculiar Circumstances of the Time and the Feeling pervading the Minds of the Rate-payers of Bourn, that Person has been misinformed?

I conceive so, undoubtedly.

Mr. W. D. Bell.

What were the Number of Applications you had, from the whole of the Union, on the Twenty-fifth, from able-bodied Men out of Work?

I cannot tell without looking through all the Parishes. The Union consists of Thirty-seven Parishes.

But Bourn is by far the largest?

Yes.

Having what Population?

2,500. On the 11th of January there had also been an unusual Number of Applications both from Bourn and from Baston. Upon that Occasion Mr. Gulson, the Assistant Commissioner, was present, and explained to the whole of them the State of the Law upon the Subject; that it was no Matter of Choice at all with the Guardians, but that that was the State of the Law, and that they had no other Relief to offer them. He also explained to them, at my Request, that if their Necessities were such as to require them to accept Relief in that Form, they need be under no Apprehension of their Homes being broken up, or their Furniture being sold, but that as they left their Homes so they might return to them.

How long were those Men employed upon the Road?

I cannot state that without examining the Book; but, if it is the Wish of the Committee, I will prepare a Statement of that, and deliver it in.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned to Friday next, Twelve o'Clock.

Die Veneris, 18° *Maii* 1838.

The Lord WHARNCLIFFE in the Chair.

Mr. JOHN LEWIN is called in, and further examined as follows:

THE Committee understand that you wish to make a Statement with regard to Parts of your Evidence?

Yes; there are several things. I was asked, "Do you know what induced her to come to you?" and the Answer is, "Yes, I apprehend so; I was one of the Sub-Committee to collect Facts and Evidence with reference to the Poor Law." Now, on reference to some Papers after I got away, I find that I had several Things, originating in a public Matter that I was concerned in before I knew Lord Stanhope at all. When I saw these Papers they brought to my Recollection Circumstances which arose out of a Transaction some Years before, in which I was concerned on account of the Poor. I found that I had a great many Answers before I was appointed one of that Sub-Committee at all. I have a Portion of the Papers here and a Portion at home, that are numbered up to Ten, that I delivered to different Gentlemen and Noblemen to look over before I was appointed on that Committee at all.

Do those Papers of which you are now speaking refer to the Cases upon which you were examined before?

Some of them do, but I am not quite certain, as I have not the whole of the Memorandums here. Having stood forward in a public Matter from 1817 and 1818 to 1824 and 1826, I was the humble Instrument of disincorporating the Hundred, and the Poor were changed from the Workhouse into their own Cottages. It was a pleasing Change for them; and when they came to be oppressed with the Workhouse System again, as a matter of course they came to me.

As an old Friend?

As an old Friend, as I apprehend.

What is the next Part of your Evidence upon which you wish to make any Remark?

I was asked, "Have you distributed any printed Papers in any of the Parishes in your Union?—No. Were there any of the Papers distributed from Lord Stanhope's Committee in London?—Not that I recollect; I do not recollect having any down." I had none from the Committee, but I had printed Papers privately, and I supposed the other Question would follow, and that my Answer would follow then; but I had no Question put to me whether I had any printed Papers from my Lord Stanhope and from other People privately, but only whether I had any from Lord Stanhope's Committee in London; now, from that Committee I never had any.

But you had some privately from Lord Stanhope?

I had some Papers from others as well as Lord Stanhope, and I did not distribute them in the Parish, but the Parties came to me, and many of them had the Papers; but I did not receive any Papers from Lord Stanhope's Committee, nor did I distribute them in the Parish; I only allowed the Poor as they came to take them.

Then when they came to you you gave them these Papers?

I gave many of them the Papers.

Was it generally known amongst them that you were in Possession of those Papers?

I am not aware.

Is there any thing else you wish to state?

I was asked some Question as to the lowering of the Wages of the Labourers, and

Mr. John Lewin.

and I said that the Poor Law had lowered the Wages. I wish to remark, that I can mention Cases to show the lowering of the Wages, which I have attributed to the Poor Law.

Are the Cases numerous in which it has had the Effect of lowering Wages, to your own Knowledge?
I cannot state how many.

Are they One or Ten?
I should say between one and the other; there may be Half a Dozen or Half a Score.

Is there any other Explanation you wish to give of your former Evidence?
There is One Thing in explanation, about the elder Parts of the Family helping to maintain the younger ones: In the first Passage relating to the Widows it is stated that the elder Part of the Family helped, or else there would have been more Distress. It appeared to me as if the Evidence goes to state that all those Twenty-four Children and the Widows altogether were dependent on the Parents; but the Truth is, that the elder Children did contribute partly, as I understood, to the Support of the Widows.

Which of them?
I believe the whole.

You say that those elder Children contribute to the Support of the Widows; which of the Widows?
I do not say One simply.

Do you know whether any of her Children contributed to the Support of Mrs. Ling?
I do not recollect which they were now.

You do not know if any of Mrs. Ling's Children contribute to her Support?
I have Reason to believe that several of them do; that her elder Children helped to support the Widows and the younger ones; that is the Effect of the Report of the Widows themselves. It originated in asking Lord Stanhope's Opinion as to the Report sent forth by certain Persons in the Public Newspapers, which appeared to me to be assisting the Assistant Commissioners.

With respect to Mrs. Ling; do you mean to say that any of her elder Children contributed to the Support of Mrs. Ling and her younger Children?
I believe generally the elder ones contributed to the Mothers and the younger Children.

Confine yourself to Mrs. Ling?
I cannot.

Then you do not know whether any of Mrs. Ling's Children contributed to her Support?
I do not know.

Did Mrs. Grayston's elder Children contribute to the Support of Mrs. Grayston?
Not that I am aware of. I do not know which they were; but some of the Women in the course of Conversation mentioned this.

Do you know whether any of Mrs. Grayston's elder Children contributed to the Support of Mrs. Grayston and the younger Part of her Family?
From this Evidence I cannot confine myself to state positively whether it was so.

From what Evidence?
From the Manner in which I took this down there. I have not got it here. I thought of speaking generally as to the Widows altogether.

From the Manner in which you took down the Evidence you cannot tell whether any of Mrs. Grayston's Children contributed to the Support of Mrs. Grayston and her younger Children?
No.

Not being able to answer that Question, you thought yourself perfectly justified in making the Statement that you did, that you thought it was a Case of great Hardship? *Mr. John Lewin.*

Yes.

Being perfectly unable to state which of the Children, or whether any of the Children, helped their Mother, you think yourself perfectly justified in quoting the Case as an Instance of Hardship under the Poor Law?

Yes, I conceived so. I submitted it to Lord Stanhope for his Consideration.

Did you not do something more than submit it for his Consideration? Did not your Letter convey a very grave Censure upon the Guardians for the Hardship of that Case?

Very likely it did. I did not intend it upon the Guardians, but upon the System altogether.

Upon the Guardians, who were the Instruments of carrying that System into operation?

They are Instruments under others. I blame the System altogether. I do not blame the Guardians so much as I do the System. I wish my Opposition to appear against the System. I always knew that the Poor would do more with 1*s.* out of the Poorhouse than with 5*s.* in.

Have you stated to Lord Stanhope in any of your Communications with him whether any of the elder Children of Mrs. Ling contributed to the Support of Mrs. Ling and the younger Part of her Family?

I can only answer it generally, that the Widows generally did.

Did you state to Lord Stanhope that any of the Children of Mrs. Ling contributed to the Support of Mrs. Ling and the younger Part of the Family?

I have no Recollection that I did.

Did you with respect to Mrs. Grayston?

I do not recollect that I did.

Is there any thing else in your former Evidence that you wish to observe upon?

There are several Things in the latter Part that I have not told the Half of. There is one Man entirely left out, one of the Labourers alluded to; there is Robert Airey of Eason. There is George Airey, a Brother of Robert, who is left out altogether.

Will you point out where Robert Airey is alluded to in the printed Letter?

It states, that "The Two latter his Master hired at 10*s.* a Week, and discharged him and his Brother." George Airey is the Brother.

Then the Committee are to understand that that Part of the Extract of that Letter which refers to the poor agricultural Labourers relates to Robert Airey and George Airey?

Yes.

How old was this Airey who was discharged, and offered 2*s.* 6*d.* a Week?

That was Benjamin Airey; I think he was Twenty-one; he is the Son of Robert Airey.

He quitted the Workhouse, and was offered 2*s.* 6*d.* a Week?

Yes.

Did he take the 2*s.* 6*d.* a Week rather than remain in the Workhouse?

He did. His Master gave him his Dinner every Day in addition to that; I have learned that since.

He boarded him, and gave him 2*s.* 6*d.*?

No; he gave him his Dinner.

What could he fairly earn, according to the ordinary Rate of Wages in that Neighbourhood?

He could not of course earn more than he did.

What, according to the Rate of Wages in the Country, were his Wages per Week worth?

I am not acquainted with that. Some Lads at Twenty-one would be worth as much as full Men, and others would not be worth more than 5*s.* or 6*s.*

Mr. John Lewin.

Had he the Dinner from the Beginning with the 2*s.* 6*d.*?
I am not certain.

Taking it that from the first he had 2*s.* 6*d.* a Week and his Dinner, what were his Wages at that Time fairly worth?
I should consider that they were worth at least 5*s.* and his Dinner.

And he chose to take the 2*s.* 6*d.* and his Dinner rather than go back to the Workhouse?
Yes.

Why did not you inquire into the Particulars of this Man's Wages, and all that he got, before you reported that Case to Lord Stanhope?
There is nothing that makes any Difference but the Dinner.

Is not the Dinner worth more than the 2*s.* 6*d.* per Week?
I do not know.

What do you reckon his Dinner to be worth for the Week?
Perhaps 2*s.* or 2*s.* 6*d.*

That would make 5*s.*?
Yes.

If you knew that Fact, how came you to state to Lord Stanhope that he only had 2*s.* 6*d.*?
I do not recollect that I knew the Fact at the Time.

Why did not you inquire, and ascertain the Fact?
These Memorandums were written to submit to Lord Stanhope from Memory.

Then when you were stating this Case of Hardship under the Poor Law, with respect to the small Wages obtained by this Lad, you did not know at that Time what Wages he had obtained?
I was not certain.

Then how came you to report a Case to Lord Stanhope, which he was to report from your Information of the Facts, of which you were not certain?
They were only submitted to Lord Stanhope; they were not sent to Lord Stanhope for Publication.

Then did Lord Stanhope betray your Confidence?
My Lord Stanhope misunderstood me, or I must have made a Mistake, One of the Two.

When you were sending Information to Lord Stanhope, who was a Person in whom you had Confidence as a Friend to your View of the new Poor Law, how came you not to furnish him with correct Information?
I do not know that there is any thing incorrect in the Manner in which I sent it.

Is it complete?
I am not aware that it was not complete.

Before you reported that Case to a Person in Lord Stanhope's Situation was not it your Duty to ascertain correctly what the Man was actually earning?
Perhaps it was; I understood that that was the Case.

Then ought any body in my Lord Stanhope's Situation to have Confidence in a Person such as you have described yourself to be, telling him these Cases without having proper Information upon them?
I do not know; I cannot answer the Question without making a Remark here: this is confidential Correspondence between my Lord Stanhope and myself; it wanted Correction, as I stated before.

In sending this Communication to Lord Stanhope did you allow him to make any Use of it which he might think proper?
Yes. I asked my Lord Stanhope to make any Alterations he wished in the Matter, so that he did not alter the Facts.

Did you allow him to make any Use of that Communication?
I do not recollect what passed exactly; it was verbal, I think, to the best of

Mr. John Lewin.

of my Recollection. I am afraid I have made a Mistake in submitting them to Lord Stanhope.

What Mistake do you mean?
By not explaining that they were not finished.

In writing to Lord Stanhope, did you allow him to communicate the Information you gave him, or did you inform him that it must be considered as a confidential Communication?
I do not recollect that exactly.

What was the Object and Intention of your Communication to Lord Stanhope upon the Subject?
In consequence of seeing a Report of certain different Parties in public Papers with respect to the new Poor Laws; several People submitted Facts; for instance, Mr. so and so, from the County of so and so, reported that the Poor Law was working well, that the poor Labourers were better off.

Therefore you sent these Statements to Lord Stanhope, for the Purpose of drawing his Attention to the Cases of those Persons?
I wished to report so and so, merely to show that the others were one-sided Reports. I believe my Object was, that as the Reports of working well came from the Parties who paid the Rates, I thought it would be well for the Poor to have a Report of the Manner in which it worked upon them.

Then you meant Lord Stanhope to make use of these Cases?
Yes, I did.

Do you think that Lord Stanhope would have made use of those Cases if you had not given him Permission to do so?
Certainly not.

Was not it your Duty to have taken the Trouble to inquire as to the Truth of those Cases which you placed in Lord Stanhope's Hands?
Yes, I suppose so.

Are you sure that you are right in your Statement with respect to Benjamin Airey now, that he only receives 2*s.* 6*d.* and his Dinner?
I received that Information.

Who did you receive that Information from?
I think from the Father or the Mother.

You did not even receive the Information from the Lad himself?
No.

Did you ever see the Lad?
I do not remember that I did.

Did you ever ask him a Question upon the Subject?
I could not if I did not see him.

From whom did you receive the Account of the 2*s.* 6*d.* without an Account of the Dinner?
I cannot answer that positively; I have said that I think I received it from the Father or the Mother.

At different Times you heard Two different Accounts?
I am not positive as to that.

Whom did Benjamin Airey work for?
He has several different Parties that he worked for.

From whom did he receive that 2*s.* 6*d.* and the Dinner?
Mr. Catchpool, I think it was.

Did you ever ask Mr. Catchpool about it?
No.

Is it the Practice of the Farmers to give the Labourers Dinners?
No.

Did you ever know it done, or is it an unusual Practice?
I believe he gave it to him out of Charity, knowing his Wages were so low.

Mr. John Lewin.

But he himself gave him the Wages, and he might, if he wished to do him a Charity, have paid him better Wages?
Yes.

You were not aware of these Facts when you gave your Evidence the other Day?
I did not recollect it till I found a Memorandum when I went home; I found a Memorandum in which something was mentioned that reminded me I had heard about the Dinner.

Can you state what the Man was likely to have under those Circumstances? What would his Dinner consist of; would it be Bread and Cheese and Bacon?
I have no Idea that he lived differently from other farming Servants.

You say that after the Examination the other Day you found, upon referring to the Papers, that he received his Dinner besides the *2s. 6d.*?
It reminded me of that.

Was that Paper written before you communicated this Case to Lord Stanhope?
I do not recollect that; I think in all Probability it was not.

Then how came you to communicate to Lord Stanhope only a Part of that which was written upon the Paper, and not the Whole?
I am not quite certain whether it was written then.

Have you got that Paper?
I have not got it here.

Is it in existence?
There was a Memorandum to remind me of it.

Can you find it?
I dare say I can.

Had it any Date to it?
There is no Date to it.

Will you recollect whether you took the Memorandum before you communicated it to Lord Stanhope?
I cannot recollect it positively.

Are you sure that it was not written before you communicated the Case to Lord Stanhope?
I am not certain.

Do you remember whether you had any Conversation with the Parties after that Communication to Lord Stanhope?
Yes; they have repeatedly been to me.

Since?
Before and since.

You say that you prepared these Statements in answer to the Statement of those who advocated the present System of the Poor Laws?
Yes.

By that do you mean the general Opinions expressed, or the Reports of the Commissioners upon the Subject?
Only general Opinions.

Where did you get those from?
From printed Newspapers of Parties from different Counties reporting.

Where did you find them?
In the public Newspapers.

Of course it was your anxious Wish to place in the Hands of so respectable a Person as Lord Stanhope the most correct Information, as you were well aware he was likely to use it in support of those Opinions which you advocated?
Yes.

Mr. John Lewin.

Then when you made that Report to Lord Stanhope, did you state that the Man was earning only 2*s.* 6*d.* a Week, when in point of fact he earned 5*s.* a Week?

I did not know that he had his Dinner at that Time.

If you wrote that Memorandum before you communicated with Lord Stanhope, must you not have known that in point of fact he had 5*s.* a Week?

If I wrote it before.

Did you prepare this Extract which has been published from written Memoranda, or principally from Memory?

Principally from Memory.

Had you any written Memoranda at the Time upon the Subject of this Labourer?

Not by me, or else I should not have written it from Memory.

Then you had not taken a Memorandum about the 2*s.* 6*d.* before you made this Extract for Lord Stanhope?

I said I had found some Memorandum which reminded me of it, but I cannot say what exactly.

Do you know a Man of the Name of John Buckingham?

Yes.

What is his Age?

Seventy-seven or Seventy-eight.

What has he from the Parish?

I do not know now.

Who does he work for?

He lives by my Bullock Yard, and looks after the Boys, and so on. He has not been able to do any thing for Years of any consequence.

Does not he work for you?

No; he looks after the Boys that look after the Bullocks.

What do you pay him?

I do not pay him any thing.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Major General W.A.Johnson, M.P.

Major General WILLIAM AUGUSTUS JOHNSON, a Member of the House of Commons, attending, is further examined as follows:

SINCE the Committee had the Pleasure of seeing you before a more full Report of what fell from you upon the Occasion of the Meeting at the Crown and Anchor has been handed in, from which it appears that they omitted entirely to ask you with respect to one Case you mentioned there. You say, "Another Instance of the Severity of the Law was in the Case of a very industrious Man, who, being also a very good Workman, was constantly in the habit of earning 12*s.* per Week. This Man had a Family and Eight Children; these he could support very well. His eldest Daughter was at Service; but unfortunately the State of his Wife compelled him to have his Daughter at home. In consequence of this he was not able to support himself and Family, and he applied to the Poor Law Guardians for Relief. The Guardians said he might go into the Workhouse, or they would lend him a Sum of Money; this the Man said he would not borrow, as he would not be able to pay it, and he would not, he said, go into the Workhouse, as he had a good Home; and if he could get something to pay a Medical Man, and support his Children, he would do well; but this was the only Answer that he could get. And then be it observed, that the Medical Man to be paid was not the Medical Man of the Applicant's choosing, but the Medical Man of the Guardians choosing; so that the Loan they offered to make would be to pay their own Medical Man." Do you know the Name of this Man?

I do not recollect his Name. I know where he lived; he lived at Sway-

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field. I believe the Substance of what is stated there to be correct; I should say it was a mere Report given to me, which I believed.

A Report from the Man himself?
No; I think Mr. Parker mentioned it, or Mr. Bellingham.

Where does Mr. Parker live?
At Hanthorpe. I think the Man is an Under-tenant of his. Mr. Bellingham is a Surgeon, living at Bourn.

You say an Under-tenant; what does he rent?
I do not know what he rents. Sometimes in Lincolnshire there is a Cottage goes with the Farm, and he lets the Cottage.

You say he wanted to get something to pay the Medical Man and help the Family; and then there is an Observation upon the Medical Man being not of the Applicant's choosing, but the choosing of the Guardians, when the Guardians help the Poor; was it Mr. Bellingham that made that Remark to you?
No; he is not the Surgeon of the Board of Guardians.

He had not by accident been in the habit of attending this Person's Family?
I do not know that he had, or had not. Bourn is Seven or Eight Miles from Swayfield.

You do not know any thing of the Circumstances?
No more than was stated to me, which I related to the Meeting at the Crown and Anchor.

Should you know the Name of the Man if you heard it?
I do not think I should; I am not sure.

Is it William Kettle?
I almost think it is.

Can you give any other Particulars by which the Committee can identify the Man?
I can easily ascertain the Name of the Man, by writing to Bourn. I have seen Mr. Bell, who is the Clerk of the Board of Guardians; he mentioned the Thing to me, and he asked me if the Man's Name was Kettle, and I at first thought not, but when I come to recollect I think it was; and the Circumstances so much correspond with what he mentioned, that I dare say the Man's Name may be Kettle.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

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Mr. WILLIAM D. BELL is called in, and further examined as follows:

HAVE you seen a Report of General Johnson's Speech that contains the Case now pointed out to you?
Yes; I have a Copy of it with me.

Can you at all assist the Committee in identifying the Person meant by General Johnson?
I have no Doubt whatever that the Person to whom General Johnson refers is a Man named John Kettle, of Swayfield.

Can you refer to your Books, and give the Committee any Particulars with respect to any Application made by that Person for Relief?
On the 4th of January in this Year the Relieving Officer of the District reported an Application for Medical Relief, and for any other Relief which the Board might think fit to grant him, but specifically for Medical Relief for his Wife.

Did he apply for Medical Relief only?
For Relief generally, but more especially for Medical Relief. The Circumstances of the Man's Family are precisely as stated by General Johnson, that he has Eight Children, and that his Wife is sick. She is dropsical; I have seen her, and know it from herself.

Was

Mr. W. D. Bell.

Was he earning 12*s.* a Week?

He was at the Time of his Application earning 15*s.* a Week, 12*s.* himself, and his Son 3*s.*; that I had from his own Mouth; in addition to which he was living in a House which is either his own Freehold, or for which he pays only a nominal Quit Rent of 3*s.* a Year.

Was not he living under Mr. Parker?

No; he is living in a House which I rather think Brown's Hospital claims as being on the Waste, Brown's Hospital being the Lords of the Manor. In the Year 1832 I find him on the Register of Voters as a Freeholder in respect of this very Property that he now lives upon. Here is his Name, "John Kettle, Swayfield." I cannot inform the Committee how it happens that his Name is no longer on the Register; and I therefore presume it is from the Circumstance of his paying this yearly Quit Rent to Brown's Hospital.

You are quite sure that he does not live in a Cottage under Mr. Parker?

Certainly. I saw Mr. Parker on last Saturday, and conversed with him upon this very Subject.

What was the Order of the Guardians with respect to him?

The Order of the Board was, "Medical Relief on Loan." I asked Kettle, whom I made it my Business to see (being at Swayfield last Week), whether any thing was said, either by himself or the Relieving Officer, as to "the House" having been offered to him; he said, no such Thing; the Workhouse was never mentioned either by himself or the Relieving Officer.

Did he receive any Medical Relief?

He refused to accept it on Loan.

Was he before the Board?

He never came to the Board himself.

How did he apply?

Through the Relieving Officer.

Was the Relieving Officer desired to inform him, that, as a general Rule, he could not receive any Relief unless he came into the Workhouse?

Nothing was said about the Workhouse.

But that he should have Medical Relief?

That he might have Medical Relief on Loan.

Do not you give Medical Relief to able-bodied Paupers out of the House without requiring them to pay the Expense?

Not unless they themselves are sick; if they themselves are sick we can do it.

The Board did not doubt the Fact of his Wife's Illness?

No.

Do you mean to say that if an able-bodied Man who earns sufficient to support himself when all his Family are well applies for Medical Relief in case of the Illness of a Child you do not give him Medical Relief, unless he brings all his Family into the Workhouse?

We should offer it on Loan.

How do you expect a Man under the Circumstances of that Person to repay the Medical Relief so supplied upon Loan?

He was in the receipt of an Income of 15*s.* a Week, in addition to which he had no Rent to pay, which cannot be equal to less than 2*s.* a Week more; making a Total of 17*s.* a Week.

He had his Wife and Eight Children to keep; he had therefore Ten Persons to keep?

Yes; having an Income of 15*s.* a Week, and no Rent to pay.

And it was the Opinion of the Board of Guardians that his was not a Case to receive any Medical Relief?

They conceived they had not the Power to grant it otherwise than on Loan, because, according to the Terms of the prohibitory Order, that is the Con-

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struction we put upon it. With your Lordship's Permission, I will hand in a Copy of the Notice to which I adverted in my Evidence on Tuesday.

The Witness delivers in the same, which is read, and is as follows:

BOURN UNION.

WHEREAS the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales have issued an Order, that, except in Cases of sudden or urgent Necessity, or of Sickness, no Relief shall in future be given to any able-bodied Male Pauper in this Union, or to any Part of his Family, unless such Pauper, together with such of his Family as require Relief, be in the Workhouse.

The Board of Guardians therefore hereby give Notice, that, except in the Cases above specified, all Out-door Relief at present allowed to able-bodied Men or their Families must be discontinued from and after the 1st of June next, and that from that Time it will not be in the Power of the Board to grant such Out-door Relief.

The Guardians therefore earnestly exhort the Labourers, and especially those having Families dependent on them for Support, to make the best Use of their Earnings during the approaching Summer and Harvest, in order that they may be able to support themselves during the ensuing Winter without resorting to Parochial Aid, which can only be afforded in the Manner above stated.

Board Room, 18th May 1837.

How is this a Regulation by which Persons, Part of whose Family is sick, may receive Relief without going into the Workhouse?

We conceive that the Exception in that Rule only applies where the Head of the Family, the Person by whose Labour the Family are maintained, is himself sick; and that, therefore, to give Medical Aid when a Member, not being the Head, of the Family is sick, would be in fact giving Relief in aid of Wages.

You were not aware that other Boards of Guardians to whom the peremptory Order has been issued have raised the Question, and have given Relief to able-bodied Fathers of Families where one of the Children or the Wife has been sick, and that the Commissioners have sanctioned it as a general Principle?

I am aware that the Commissioners have, in peculiar and individual Cases that have been reported to them, sanctioned it; but if it is put to me as a general Rule, I am not aware that they have sanctioned it.

Why do not the Words "of Sickness" apply both to the Male Pauper and to any Part of his Family?

Because the Circumstance of a Member who is not the Head of the Family, or one who contributes to its Support, being sick, does not in any way diminish the Means of their Support.

Why does not the Word "Sickness" apply to the Words able-bodied Male Pauper, or to any Part of his Family?

I can only answer that by saying that is the Construction we put upon it; and I am confirmed in that Opinion by having mentioned this particular Case to Mr. Gulson, the Assistant Commissioner, and he said that, under the actual Circumstances of the Case, the Man being in the receipt of such Earnings, and living upon his own Property, we were not justified in giving him Relief.

Is not it possible that the Board may have been quite right to refuse it in that Case, and yet that this Rule does not take this Case out of the Consideration of the Board?

Certainly.

Are you not aware, that though the Earnings of an able-bodied labouring Man may be sufficient to support himself and Family in Health, yet that in the Case of the Sickness of his Wife, or any Part of the Family requiring Medical Advice, and requiring perhaps more Nourishment, his Earnings would not be sufficient?

Of course that might be the Case.

What is that poor Man to do if this Regulation was strictly to be enforced; would not that poor Man be placed in a Situation of very great Distress if all Medical Relief were withheld from him?

In the extreme Case put, the Board would give the Relief required, and would

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would direct the Case to be reported; and if the Board did not so direct I should feel it my Duty, as their Clerk, to report the Case to the Poor Law Commissioners.

Can the Commissioners interfere in a particular Case?
Under the Fifty-second Section of the Poor Law Amendment Act they can.

You stated that the Bourn Union have invariably acted upon this Principle; that no Medical Relief has been given where the Head of the Family was in Health or at work?
I do not say in no Case, because we have made special Reports under the Fifty-second Section of the Poor Law Amendment Act of Cases in which it has been sanctioned. I have in my Memory the Case of a Man in the Parish of Deeping St. James.

Then it is by special Application to the Commissioners that it is done?
Where the Board of Guardians at their own Discretion deviate from the Rules of the Commissioners they are directed under the Fifty-second Section to report to the Commissioners within Fourteen Days; and I have now in my Memory the Case of a Man in Deeping St. James, in which the Commissioners did sanction it, under the particular Circumstances reported to them.

Then is it the Understanding of your Board that if the Head of a Family is well, and he has any Part of his Family sick, that does not give him a Claim to Relief out of the Workhouse?
Except on Loan, or giving the Relief subject to the Approval of the Commissioners.

The only other Alternative besides the Two you have mentioned is, that the Man and his whole Family should come into the Workhouse?
Yes; qualified by those Two Exceptions.

Is that the usual Construction put upon the Order of the Commissioners, as regards Medical Relief?
It is the Construction put by our Board.

Will you point out any thing in the Fifty-second Section that authorizes the Commissioners to interfere in any particular Case?
Yes; it is in the Proviso, which I will read: "Provided also, that in case the Overseers or Guardians of any Parish or Union in which such Orders or Regulations shall be in force shall depart from them or any of them in any particular Instance or Instances of Emergency, and shall within Fifteen Days after every such Departure report the same and the Grounds thereof to the said Commissioners, and the said Commissioners shall approve of such Departure, or if the Relief so given shall have been given in Food, temporary Lodging, or Medicine, and shall have been so reported as aforesaid, then and in either of such Cases the Relief granted by such Overseers or Guardians, if otherwise lawful, shall not be unlawful, or subject to be disallowed."

Are those the Words that you refer to as authorizing the Commissioners to interfere in individual Cases?
That was not my Expression. I have stated to the Committee that we have under the Authority of that Section reported special Cases, in which the Commissioners have allowed a Departure from the Rule.

Supposing you report to the Commissioners certain Cases that have occurred in your Union which have rendered some Deviation from the ordinary Practice of the Poor Law necessary, they may say that in such Cases, taking a Class of Cases, you may do so and so?
Yes, or in individual Cases; I can refer to the Minute Book for an Instance in which that has been done.

You say that you have occasionally reported such Cases, and that you have never been refused by the Commissioners?
I think in One Case only we have been refused.

Is there any thing in the new Poor Law Act that prevents you from giving Out-door Relief if no Order had been issued by the Commissioners at Somerset House upon that Subject?
No, not till the prohibited Order is issued. The Act of Parliament has

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thrown upon them the Responsibility of fixing the Period in each Locality from and after which Out-door Relief shall be withheld.

Till you get an Order from Somerset House there is nothing to prevent you from giving Relief out of Doors?
Certainly not.

Then, in point of fact, an Application of this Sort is a mere Departure from the Order given by themselves, and not from the Law?
Precisely.

You state that this Man had Eight Children, and that his Wife stood in need of Medical Assistance; was it possible for him out of his 15*s.* a Week, the Wages of himself and his Son, to have maintained that Family, and to provide Medical Assistance?
I scarcely feel myself competent to form an Opinion, and therefore cannot answer that Question.

In point of fact did he not maintain himself and his Wife and Eight Children?
Undoubtedly; he does so now.

Have you seen him lately?
I saw him upon the 9th of this Month.

Did they appear to be in great Distress?
No; it is the prettiest and most comfortable Cottage in the Village, in all respects.

And no Appearance of Poverty or Distress?
No Appearance, certainly.

But, however, was he not in Distress when he came to you for that Relief?
I do not apprehend he was in Distress.

Then how came the Guardians to order him Medical Relief on Loan?
Because we never refuse Medical Relief altogether; they always offer it on Loan, if they come within the Description of able-bodied.

Is that under any particular Order which directs you in all Cases to give Medical Relief upon Loan?
I know of no specific Order to that Effect.

Would the Board of Guardians give Medical Relief upon Loan unless they were convinced that the Family had not the Means of providing it themselves?
The Instructions are, to give Medical Relief at once to any Person applying for it. Every Application is reported to the Board of Guardians, and then it is for them to consider whether it shall be by way of Loan, or a Gift.

Do you mean to say that they invariably order Medical Relief in all Cases, either by Loan or by Gift, whatever the Circumstances of the Party may be?
In the first Instance, undoubtedly.

Through the Relieving Officer?
When the Application is made to the Relieving Officer.

When the Application is reported to the Board of Guardians, do they invariably continue to give Medical Relief, either by Loan or otherwise?
In no Instances is Medical Relief ever refused in the first Instance, either by the Relieving Officer or by the Board.

So that when the Relieving Officer reports an Application for Medical Relief, it is always granted in the first Instance?
It has generally been already granted by him.

Had he granted it in this Case?
No; this particular Case was not a Case of that Emergency or Urgency to require it.

Then it was ordered by the Board of Guardians?
It was ordered on Loan by the Board of Guardians.

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And upon a Consideration of the Man's Circumstances?
Yes.

At that Time was he able to provide himself with Medical Relief without coming to the Board for it?
That would depend upon whether he had Credit with the Medical Man who had been in the habit of attending his Family. The Medical Officer of the Board was the same that had attended his Wife during her Confinements.

Was it the Opinion of the Board that he could not afford at that Time to employ this Medical Person?
The Application is simply reported to the Board; the Man's Circumstances are reported also, and upon that, without very much Discussion, if it appears that he is himself able-bodied, not disabled by temporary Sickness, and in the Receipt of Earnings such as were then reported, an Order is at once made for Medical Relief on Loan.

And you suppose that this Order for Medical Relief on Loan was made in consequence of the Board being satisfied that he could not afford out of his own Resources to pay for Medical Relief at that Time?
Yes. The Man himself stated to me that he at that Time owed his Medical Man a small Account, probably 1*l.*, and perhaps that might be a Reason why he had a Difficulty in obtaining a Continuance of his Attendance. I asked if he had been able to pay off any Part of that Debt since, and he said he had.

Has his Wife got well?
No; I am afraid she never will; it is a Case of confirmed Dropsy, I believe

Have you had many Cases where Relief has been granted upon Loan?
Yes; more particularly during the last Quarter.

Have the Loans been repaid?
No; we have never taken any Steps to obtain the Repayment of them; but we feel ourselves bound by the Terms of the Order only to grant it on Loan. If the Board of Guardians are wrong in their Construction of the Rule they will be happy to be set right; that is the Construction which the Board put upon the Order, and I shall be happy if we are wrong.

How far does the Relieving Officer live from this poor Woman?
I suppose Five or Six or Seven Miles; under Ten Miles certainly.

She can have no Relief unless the Relieving Officer orders it?
Oh; yes the Overseer, any Parish Officer, might order it. There is another Notice which we have published, addressed to Parish Officers, strictly enjoining them to give it whenever it is applied for.

Then she must first of all apply to the Churchwarden or the Overseer, or the Relieving Officer, to have their Authority, before she can have Relief from a Medical Man?
She must have Authority from somebody, of course.

How often does the Relieving Officer go to Swayfield?
Once a Week regularly, and oftener if Occasion requires; but regularly once, upon a certain Day, and at an appointed Hour, according to a published Route.

In that Order of your Board of Guardians you state that no Relief can be given unless the Pauper together with such Part of his Family as require Relief, be in the Workhouse; must the whole of his Family go into the Workhouse?
I apprehend he must take all that are dependent upon him for Support.

In those Cases is the Refusal to receive Relief on Loan considered as a Proof that the Parties can do without it?
I should say that that would certainly be a very reasonable Inference to draw.

May it not be that Parties, if unable to repay Loans, actually forego Medical Assistance?
Either one or the other may be the Case. In this particular Case the Woman has since been attended by the same Medical Man that always had attended her, and who is the Medical Officer of the Parish.

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Is it within your Knowledge that the former Event has often occurred; namely, the foregoing of Medical Attendance, from the Knowledge of their Inability to repay the Loan?
It is not within my Knowledge.

At whose Expense has the Medical Man attended this Woman?
At the Man's own Expense, I suppose. He told me that he had since paid his Medical Man a Part of the Debt he owed him.

You are not very rigorous in the Exaction of those Loans?
We have never enforced them.

That would therefore rather operate as an Encouragement to Paupers to apply for that Species of Relief?
Certainly; it becomes more a Matter of Form than of actual Refusal.

In short, you have defeated this Order of the Commissioners, as you interpret it, by these Loans, because as you do not intend to enforce them you have in fact given Medical Relief?
Practically we have.

Will you look at the Document called the Instructional Letter, addressed to the Board of Guardians, contained in the Third Report of the Poor Law Commissioners? Will you refer to the Twenty-ninth Clause in that, where you will find these Words: "And they recommend, as a salutary Check to such Misapplication, that wherever it appears probable that the Person receiving Medical Relief will have the Means of Repayment after his Recovery, it should be given by way of Loan, and the Repayment, by Instalments or otherwise, be carefully enforced?" Does not that imply, that it is possible that Persons applying for Medical Relief should not have the Means of Repayment after their Recovery?
That there may be such Cases.

And in which Cases you may order Medical Relief, without those Conditions?
There are the Words, "after his Recovery." That shows that this Direction applies only when the Head of the Family is himself the sick Person.

Then you still adhere to the Notion that these Words "or of Sickness" apply only to the able-bodied Male Pauper, and not to the Members of his Family?
That is my Construction of it, and that is the Construction put upon it by the Board of Guardians. I beg to repeat, that I should be exceedingly happy to find that I am wrong.

You alluded to a Case in which the Board had specially reported to the Commissioners their Wish to grant Relief, and the Commissioners refused to comply with that Request; will you describe that Case?
I cannot, without reference to the Minute Book. I beg leave to observe, that the very Circumstance of the Commissioners either confirming or disapproving of our granting it in particular Cases which have been reported to them shows, as I apprehend, that our Construction is right, otherwise they would tell us, You need not have reported this Case.

Have you ever referred to Mr. Gulson, the Assistant Poor Law Commissioner, as to your Interpretation of those Words?
I cannot charge my Memory with having done so.

Have you ever known of any Inconvenience or Suffering which has resulted from the Practice of the Bourn Union in this respect?
I know of no Case certainly.

How do you reconcile your making such Applications to the Poor Law Commissioners with the Proviso in the Fifteenth Clause?—"Provided always, that nothing in this Act contained shall be construed as enabling the said Commissioners or any of them to interfere in any individual Case for the Purpose of ordering Relief."
That Discrepancy has occurred to me before; but it is not for me to reconcile the conflicting Clauses of an Act of Parliament. If I am asked, I certainly am of opinion that those Two Clauses do conflict.

Do

Do you consider that the Applications that have been made have been made with a view to individual Cases, or with a view to a Class of Cases? *Mr. W. D. Bell.*

They were distinctly made in individual Cases.

Then you are not able to construe that consistently with a due Interpretation of the Fifteenth Clause?

I think that those Two Sections clash.

Do not you conceive that the one Section means, that the Poor Law Commissioners are not to interfere of their own Heads, proprio motu, as it is called, in individual Cases; and that the other Section refers to Cases submitted to them by Boards of Guardians; and that, understanding the Two Clauses in that Way, they do not clash?

That is one Way of reconciling them.

May you not reconcile them in this Way: that where there is a Complaint,—where the Guardians are not satisfied with the Decision of the Commissioners, and they complain,—the Poor Law Commissioners may interfere in a Class of Cases?

I think that the Way in which they were reconciled in the last Question is the view I should be inclined to take of it. With the Permission of your Lordships, I will state a Case which occurred, in which we had Mr. Gulson's Opinion, he being present. There are Two Instances in which the Circumstances of this Man, whose Name is James Lord, have been made the Subject of special Reports to the Poor Law Commissioners under the Authority of the Fifty-second Section. These do not appear to be Medical Cases, but they are Cases in which the Board, under particular Circumstances, have offered Relief, in some Shape or other, to this James Lord.

Were they Cases of Medical Relief to some of the Family that were sick?

Some of the Family were sick on one Occasion, and I dare say it included Medical Relief.

Will you read that Entry?

The Relief that had been afforded was different in both Cases. The first Occasion was on the 3d of August 1837: "Ordered, that the Clerk do report to the Poor Law Commissioners, as directed by the Fifty-second Section of the Poor Law Amendment Act, that the Board have deemed it expedient to deviate from their recent Order prohibiting Out-door Relief to able-bodied Male Paupers in the Case of James Lord of Deeping St. James, aged Thirty-nine, a married Man with Six Children, by offering him the Privilege of sending Two of his Children to the House, without coming in with them." The Answer of the Commissioners is in Substance this: On the 10th there is this Entry:—"A Letter was read from the Poor Law Commissioners in reference to the proposed Relief to James Lord, detailing the Advantages of adhering to the Workhouse System, and stating that the Commissioners can only approve of that Mode of affording Relief to able-abodied Applicants; that they feel assured this is not only the most advantageous to the Union, but, in the End, most kind and considerate towards the Poor themselves; that the Results which follow a steady Adherence to this System are no longer a Matter of Conjecture, but of Experience; and that the Conviction which the Commissioners entertain of the Advantages and the Practicability of adhering to the Rule preventing Out-door Relief to the able-bodied Labourers renders them unwilling to take the Responsibility of foregoing those Advantages by sanctioning any Departures from that Regulation; but that they will be prepared to consider the Case of Lord on receiving a Statement of the special Circumstances thereof, and of the Wages of himself and Family."

That was not the Case of a Man with a large Family, having one of that Family sick?

In a subsequent Instance, in the Case of the same Family, one of his Children appears to have sustained an Accident, and therefore that would be a Case of Medical Relief. This is on the 11th of January of the present Year: "An Order was made, and directed to be reported to the Poor Law Commissioners, in conformity with Section Fifty-two of the Poor Law Amendment Act, for Out-door Relief to James Lord, an able-bodied Labourer aged

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Thirty-nine, his Wife being confined in Childbed, and the eldest of Seven Children disabled by an accidental Injury to his Hand from a Gun."

What is the Answer to that?

On the 25th of January, "A Letter was received from the Poor Law Commissioners, sanctioning the Allowance of Out-door Relief to James Lord, under the special Circumstances stated in the Report transmitted to them."

The special Circumstances being that some of the Family were sick?

Yes; but clearly showing, I apprehend, that it was a Case that required their Sanction.

They do not appear to have accompanied that Permission to depart from the general Rule by any Observations such as they made before?

No; they do not. If I recollect right, the Assistant Commissioner, Mr. Gulson, was present upon that Occasion, and undertook to get it sanctioned; therefore there we had the Authority of Mr. Gulson for our Construction of the Rule, inasmuch as he undertook to get it approved.

Do you infer that from the Circumstance of Mr. Gulson being present, and saying that he would get it allowed?

Yes.

Are you aware that the various Boards of Guardians throughout the Country put a different Construction as to the Degree to which the Rule is stringent in case of Medical Relief?

I believe a great Variety of Practice exists in different Boards, and that notwithstanding the Rule many Boards are extremely lax in applying it.

Are you aware that in the Guildford Union the Board of Guardians felt that there was an Obscurity about it, and made a Representation to the Commissioners, stating their Doubts upon the Subject, and they received an Explanation bearing in Substance, that where, in the Opinion of such Board of Guardians, the Earnings of the Father of the Family were insufficient for the providing with Medical Attendance, and with such extra Comforts as might be required in Sickness, any Member of his Family dependent upon him for Relief, that there the Board of Guardians would have the Power of giving that; and that was given as a kind of general Instruction?

I have not heard of that Direction of the Commissioners before.

The Committee understand that there is no Instance in which the Commissioners have refused to comply with the special Recommendation of the Board of Guardians of the Bourn Union, under the Proviso of the Fifty-second Clause?

Not of Medical Relief. There was a Case very recently of Refusal on the Part of the Commissioners to sanction Relief to a non-resident Widow; to a Widow living out of her own Parish and out of the Union.

Have you been in the habit of giving Loans?

Not very generally, till within the last Quarter. We have found those Applications from able-bodied Men during the last Quarter and the preceding one increase very much, which has induced the Board to be more particular in always making them by way of Loan. The Board has formed an Opinion that there is a Disposition prevailing on the Part of able-bodied Men (finding themselves precluded from all other Species of Out-door Relief) to avail themselves of this indirect Mode of obtaining it; and therefore latterly they have uniformly made it by way of Loan.

Is there any Instance in which they have required the Loan to be repaid?

None at present.

To what Extent have you given those Loans?

I can state nothing as to the pecuniary Amount. As to the Number of Cases, I could state that by going through the Books.

What Sort of Proportion do those Cases of Assistance by way of Loan bear to the Assistance given to Out-door Paupers?

They are not very numerous; perhaps One or Two every Board Day.

For how many Weeks?

During the last Quarter; that would be Thirteen Weeks.

To

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To what Extent has each Loan been?
I do not know at all; it would depend upon the Length of Time during which the Relief would be necessary.

Are such Loans only given with reference to Medical Relief?
We have in some very few Cases ordered other Relief by Loan; but there is no Instance which I recollect in which we have endeavoured to enforce Payment.

Do you recollect any Instances in which a Loan has been refused?
The only Instance that I recollect of Application being made distinctly for a Loan was one for a Loan of 10*s.* by a Man to come to London, not long ago, and that Application was allowed.

Has it been repaid?
No; it is not long since.

Is there any Medical Club or any self-supporting Dispensary in your Union?
We have endeavoured to accomplish it, but we have not been successful. I believe some of the Medical Men have made Attempts of that Kind themselves.

Did your Board receive a Circular from the Poor Law Commissioners about a Year or Two Years ago recommending such Medical Clubs?
Yes; and upon that Occasion we endeavoured to get the Poor to consider it favourably.

None has been established yet?
Not under the Organization of the Board of Guardians.

Is it ever the Custom of your Union to give Loans of Money to Persons who leave the Workhouse, in order to help to support them till they can find Work?
No; they go out of their own accord. There was a Case of a Man partially disabled (very slightly disabled,) who with a large Family had been in the Workhouse for several Weeks, and who upon going out was ordered their former Out-door Allowance; he came within the Exception, upon the Ground of his partial Disability.

Do you give Clothes upon an able-bodied Man and his Family quitting the Workhouse?
Their own Clothes are restored to them.

If their own Clothes are in a very bad State do you ever give them Clothes?
No; that would be giving Out-door Relief.

What is the Size of your Union?
Thirty-seven Parishes.

How many Medical Officers have you?
Four.

What is the Population?
Little more than 17,000.

You said that you never knew but One Instance in which the Man himself applied for a Loan; who is to apply for a Loan?
They are not in the habit of applying themselves for Relief by way of Loan; they apply for Relief, and a Loan is offered.

When you say that there are Four Medical Officers, do you include the Gentleman who attends at the Workhouse?
Yes; he has a District of Parishes, besides the Workhouse; Nine Parishes only.

With respect to the Case of Marvin, who was found dead; can you state any thing with respect to the Earnings of that Man?
I inquired particularly of Mr. Kenny, to whom I have alluded in my former Examination, what this Man had been capable of earning, and what were his Means of Livelihood; he informed me (indeed I know of my own Know-

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ledge) that he was a Carpenter by Trade; and the Overseer had no Doubt whatever that he could, if he would, have earned 2*s.* 6*d.* a Day the Year round. He (Mr. Kenny) had himself employed him for about a Fortnight as lately as last October, at 2*s.* a Day, with his Victuals and a Quart of Ale.

And it was in November he died?

It was; so that he had as recently as October been receiving those Wages; and the Deceased upon that Occasion showed Mr. Kenny 2*s.* or 3*s.*, which he said he had kept from Hannah (meaning his Wife) to buy Tobacco. I was directed on Tuesday to put in a Return of the Names of able-bodied Men who applied for Relief on the 25th of January, who were afterwards employed by the Surveyor of the Highways. I have prepared such a Statement, showing the Number of such Applicants who were so employed in each of the following Eight Weeks, and distinguishing those who were previously so employed.

Will you deliver in that Paper?

The Witness delivers in the same, which is read, and is as follows:

BOURN UNION.

A RETURN of the NAMES of able-bodied Men who applied for Relief on the 25th of January 1838, and who were afterwards employed by the Surveyor of the Highways; showing the Number of such Applicants who were so employed in each of the following Eight Weeks, and distinguishing those who had been previously so employed.

WEEKS ENDING

1st Feb.	8th Feb.	15th Feb.	22d Feb.	1st March.	8th March.	15th March.	24th March.
*Tealby. Cant. *Sharpe. Crampton, W. Crampton, G. Willoughby. Morton.	Sharpe. Bell, C. Askew. Crampton, W. Crampton, G. Morton. Willoughby.	Crampton, W. Crampton, G. Morton. Willoughby.	Sharpe. Tealby. Crampton, W. Crampton, G. Morton. Willoughby.	Sharpe. Willoughby. Morton. Crampton, G. Crampton, W.	Sharpe. Willoughby. Crampton, W. Crampton, G.	Sharpe. Willoughby. Crampton, W. Crampton, G.	Crampton, W.
7	7	4	6	5	4	4	1

N.B.—Those marked thus * (viz., Tealby (or Taleby) and Sharpe) were employed by the Surveyor in the Week previous to the 26th of January.

It also appears, on reference to that previous Week's Account, that William Lann and John Mason, who were Applicants for Relief, had been employed in that Week, but were not employed by the Surveyor in any of the following Weeks, and that Bell was only so employed during the first of those Weeks.

W. D. BELL.

18th May 1838.

Rev. G. S. Bull.

The Rev. GEORGE STRINGER BULL is called in, and further examined as follows:

HAVE you considered how far you are disposed to answer the Questions that were asked you upon the former Day?

I am ready to answer any Questions that your Lordships may ask.

You were asked with respect to a Speech made by you at a public Meeting at Bradford, which you said was held in a Schoolroom, and you said there were about 700 Persons present?

The Room was quite full; I fancy it will hold about that Number.

Had there been a considerable Excitement previous to that Meeting upon the Subject of the Poor Law in Bradford?

Yes, there had.

And in the Neighbourhood of Bradford?

There had.

Very considerable at Halifax and Huddersfield?

In every Part of the West Riding.

What

Rev. G. S. Bull.

What was the Date of that Meeting?
I think it was, to the best of my Recollection, the Beginning of February, or the last Week in January, 1837.

Had there been several previous Meetings at Huddersfield and in the Neighbourhood upon this Subject?
I had attended several Meetings.

Previously?
Yes.

At that Meeting the Committee understand you to have stated as follows: "But I will produce Testimony of another Kind. Here stands before you a poor Cripple, whom I Yesterday met with in this Town; a Friend has mercifully delivered him from sharing the Terrors of the Guardian—aye the Guardian—System of the new Union Workhouse in the South." What was the Name of that Cripple?
John Brown.

Did he reside in Bradford?
He was then residing at Bradford.

Who was he then residing with at Bradford?
With Samuel Pittam.

Was that the Person whom you referred to as a Friend?
It was.

What new Union Workhouse in the South had this Cripple been in?
He had not been in; he was to have gone in.

What new Union Workhouse was he to have gone into?
Towcester, Northamptonshire.

Had he applied for Relief himself, or had anybody else applied for Relief for him, under the new Poor Law?
He had been told that he should be obliged to go into the Workhouse; that if he continued to receive any further Relief it must be in the Workhouse.

Who told him so?
I was informed by the Party himself.

Did he inform you by whom he was told?
By the Guardian of the Place.

What was the Name of that Guardian?
I have not a Recollection of his Name.

Did you ask it?
I did.

Did he give you the Name?
He did, but I have forgotten it.

You say that he had received Relief from the Parish out of the Workhouse?
He had.

What Parish?
Litchborough.

How long did he receive Relief from Litchborough out of the Workhouse?
I cannot say; for a considerable Time.

And he was then informed that he must not continue to receive Relief out, but that he must come into the Workhouse?
Yes.

What Parish did he belong to?
Litchborough.

Is Litchborough in the Towcester Union?
It is.

What was the Nature of his Debility which made him a Cripple?
He is lame in one of his Legs, and walks with a Crutch.

Rev. G. S. Bull.

How came he to Bradford?
He came to be an Apprentice with Samuel Pittam.

What Trade?
A Tailor.

How came he to come as an Apprentice to Pittam?
Samuel Pittam is a Relation of his,—a Half Brother.

How long had he been with Pittam at this Time?
A very short Time.

Had he worked at that Trade before at Litchborough?
I believe not.

What Age was he?
I should suppose about Fourteen Years of Age, or Fifteen. I did not ask his Age.

Did you ever take any Trouble to inquire how far that Story that he told with respect to Refusal of Relief, except in the Workhouse, was true?
I had my Information from his Half Brother, who had lived some Time in Bradford, and who was a Man of respectable Character, and I did not then think it necessary to make any further Inquiry upon the Subject.

Have you since that Time made any further Inquiry?
I have.

What is the Result of that Inquiry?
I have already given the Result of it to the Committee of the House of Commons upon the Poor Law, which I will readily repeat to the best of my Recollection. The Result of the Inquiry is, that what he stated respecting himself was perfectly correct.

Namely, that he had received Relief out of the House, and was desired to come into the House, for he must get no more Relief out of the House?
Yes; he was told that he would have to go into the House.

Did you ascertain the Reason of that Alteration in the Mode of administering Relief to him from the Relieving Officer, or the Guardians, or anybody else?
I do not know that any Inquiry was made into the Reason of it, but I should apprehend that it is one of the Regulations recently adopted by the Poor Law Commissioners.

Do you mean that it is a Regulation, that they will relieve no Person whatever out of the Workhouse?
It is a Regulation of the Commissioners, that able-bodied Persons shall be relieved only in the Workhouse.

But this is not an able-bodied Person; therefore not being an able-bodied Person it was competent to the Guardians, under the Order of the Poor Law Commissioners, to relieve him out of the Workhouse if they thought proper?
Perhaps it might be.

If they did not so relieve him out of the Workhouse, do not you apprehend there must have been some Reason for that on their Parts?
I did not inquire what their Reason was.

Why did not you think it worth your while to inquire into those Reasons?
It did not appear to me to be material to the Case; he was to choose his Alternative, either to have no Relief, or to go into the Union Workhouse.

But supposing the Guardians had discovered that the Cripple to a certain Extent did maintain himself, is not it possible they might have said, You must come into the Workhouse, or we will not continue to relieve you out of the Workhouse, you being able to do something towards your Maintenance; if you can maintain yourself out, well; if not, you must come into the Workhouse?
I was not at all aware that he had any Means of Maintenance out of the Workhouse.

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Did you inquire into that Fact?
I believe he had no Means of Maintenance at that Place out of the Workhouse, nor till he was brought as Apprentice to Bradford.

Did you ask him the Question?
I did not ask him that particularly, but I understood from him or his Relative that it was so.

Did you inquire of the Relieving Officer or any of the Guardians their Reason for altering the Mode in which he had received Relief?
I did not; but my Impression, from all the Circumstances stated to me, was, that he had not the Means of Maintenance out of the Workhouse.

But you received that Impression solely upon the Information obtained from the Lad and this Relation of his, Pittam, who had him as an Apprentice?
Yes.

Did you inquire of this Mr. Pittam how far he was able to work at his Trade as a Tailor, notwithstanding his being a Cripple?
He had not worked at the Trade of a Tailor before he was brought to Bradford to be apprenticed to a Tailor.

After he became Apprentice did you inquire of Mr. Pittam how far he was able to do the Work?
I understood that he was able to do Work as a Tailor at Bradford.

Was he able at the Time you produced him in this Way?
He was able to work at that Time. He was able to learn his Business; but he had not at the Time of his being offered the Workhouse an Opportunity of learning that Business till his Relation came and took him to be an Apprentice, and obtained Means of doing so.

Do you know whether his Relation went to that Place to fetch him, or whether he came to his Relation?
His Relation went to fetch him.

If he could be put Apprentice to a Tailor by his Relation could not he have been put Apprentice to somebody else?
It is not usual for People to take Apprentices without some Premium; and had it not been for the Payment of some Premium in his Case his Relation could not have afforded to fetch him; but that Premium, as he informed me, merely covered the Expenses of fetching him to the Place.

How was that Premium paid?
It was paid from a charitable Fund in the Neighbourhood of Litchborough.

Would not it have equally been paid to put him Apprentice in that Neighbourhood as at Bradford?
I am not aware of that.

Besides being lame in the Leg, had he any other Defect in the Way of Health or Use of his Limbs?
His general Health did not appear to be good.

Has Pittam a good Business?
I should say that as a Beginner in Business he is doing pretty well; he has been a Journeyman in Bradford, and has borne a very respectable Character, and has begun Business for himself.

Had he any Journeyman under him?
I believe One.

Any Apprentice besides his Brother?
I think not.

This Cripple is his Half Brother?
He is.

Was Brown's Father living?
No; his Mother is a Widow.

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What are the Circumstances of his Mother?
His Mother is a very poor Woman, I understand.

Why do you think she is very poor; does she maintain herself?
She received a single Loaf on behalf of one of her Children, and she is, I believe, not well able to maintain herself; she is represented to me as a very poor Person.

Who represented that to you?
A Person I sent to Towcester.

What is his Name?
Mr. Smales.

What is he?
A Schoolmaster.

You sent him for this Purpose?
I did.

And he reported to you that the Woman was not able to maintain herself well?
Yes.

What Family has she?
She has, I believe, One Child with her now, about Twelve Years old.

Has she any other Children besides the Cripple and that Child?
I believe not at home with her.

Has she abroad?
She has in other Places, I believe.

Do you know what her Children are, and their Age?
I do not know the Ages of the rest.

Or what Means they have?
I know not.

She received, you state, One Loaf for one of her Children; how old is that Child?
Twelve Years old now, and the Loaf has been discontinued.

Is that Child a legitimate Child, or a Bastard?
I believe legitimate; I am not certain.

Where is she living?
At Litchborough.

Have you been to see her personally?
I have not; I sent a Person to see her.

You say, "A Friend has mercifully delivered him from sharing the Terrors of the Guardian System of the new Union Workhouse in the South;" what do you mean by "the Terrors"?
I conceive that it is a Terror to the Poor to be confined under the Regulations of the Commissioners adopted in those Workhouses.

With respect to this particular Workhouse; have you been in it?
I have not.

Do you know the Manner in which they are treated in that particular Workhouse?
I understand that they are treated under the Regulations of the Poor Law Commissioners.

What are those "Terrors" that you speak of?
It is their Practice, as I am informed by Mr. Smales (who was informed by the Governor of the Towcester Workhouse), to have the Hair cut off close, in regard to those Persons who go into the Workhouse; not the Children's Hair merely, but the Hair of all Persons.

What Age is the Cripple?
I believe Fourteen or Fifteen.

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Had he a very large Head of Hair?
I did not notice.

Would it have been a very great Privation to him to have his Hair cut off?
I believe it has been held by our Judges to be an Assault to cut off the Hair from the Head without Consent.

Do you imagine the Order of the Poor Law Commissioners to be contrary to Law?
I am certain of it.

With respect to the Hardship to this particular Individual, was his Hair in that State that he was likely to have it cut at all?
Probably it was as much so as that of other Persons; but I conceive that that is one Part of the Discipline enforced there.

Have you ever been in any Union Workhouse?
I have not been in any Union Workhouse.

Do not you conceive that it is a very good Rule, for the Purpose of keeping the Inmates clean and in good Order and in Health, that the Hair should be cut on coming into the Workhouse?
I think it should be cut in a proper Manner, but not cut off close, after the Manner of Felons and Persons put into the House of Correction.

Have you ever seen anybody's Hair cut in a Workhouse?
I have not; but I understand it to be so from Parties who have seen it.

That their Hair is cut close?
Yes.

You take upon yourself to say that that is the Case?
That is my Belief.

Is it the Practice to cut the Hair of Felons short?
It is.

Is the Hair, according to your Belief and Information, cut in the Workhouse in the same Way in which the Hair of Felons is cut?
I believe it is.

Is it your Opinion that the Paupers consider it as a Degradation?
They do; and I am certain that there is an Action at Law for an Assault against any Person doing so.

Have you ever visited any of the Schools in London,—Christ's Hospital, or any of those Schools?
No.

Do you think that an Action of Assault would lie against the Master of that School for cutting the Hair of the Children?
Certainly not.

If you conceive that an Action for Assault would lie for cutting the Hair, can you turn to the particular Law which allows the Governor of a House of Correction to cut the Felon's Hair very short?
I cannot; but I apprehend that in the Case of a Felon, he is so far placed out of the Pale of the Law, that he has, at all events so far as any Regulations of that Description are concerned, by his Crime subjected himself to that Sort of Discipline; but I conceive that a Person having committed no Crime, and being confined in an Union Workhouse, has undoubtedly an Action of Assault against any one who shall, against his Will, cut off his Hair.

Can you turn to any Rule or Regulation of the Poor Law Commissioners of England and Wales which orders the Children's Hair to be cut off like that of Felons?
I cannot; but I am informed that the Regulation is adopted in the Towcester Union Workhouse, and I conceived it could not be adopted without an Order or Allowance from the Poor Law Commissioners.

Who informed you of that Circumstance?
Mr. Smales.

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Who is Mr. Smales?
A Person whom I sent to the Towcester Union.

What is Mr. Smales?
A Schoolmaster at Bradford.

He was sent by you to Towcester?
He was.

You are not aware whether there is any Bye Law of the Towcester Guardians which authorizes the cutting off any greater Quantity of the Hair of Persons in that Workhouse than is necessary for their Cleanliness, and therefore for their Health?
I am not aware what the Rules of the Guardians of Towcester are.

But you do not know that there is any Rule which authorizes the Hair being cut off in the Manner in which you have described?
I understand it is done, and I apprehend it would not be done without a Rule or Order to that Effect.

Did this Bradford Schoolmaster state to you the Length of the Hair of the Children of Fourteen or Fifteen Years of Age?
He told me that he was informed by the Master of the Workhouse that they cropped them close.

Did that Schoolmaster give himself the Trouble of seeing any of the Paupers, so as to be able to tell you from his own View how long the Hair was?
He did not tell me how long the Hair was, but he went through the Workhouse himself.

Did he tell you whether the Hair was an Inch long, or an Inch and a Half long?
He did not.

Did he tell you whether all the Children had their Hair cut so close?
He told me that it was the usual Practice in that House to crop them close.

Have you ever been in a Workhouse before the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act?
Yes, into our own Workhouse.

Do you allude to the one in Bradford?
A Workhouse at Bowling, near Bradford.

Was it not the general Practice in that Workhouse to cut the Boys Hair of Fourteen Years of Age short?
Not to crop it close in the Manner that I apprehend it is done in the Union Workhouse referred to.

Was there a Regulation to cut it at all in your Workhouse?
It was the Practice to cut it when it required to be cut, as I should order my own Children's Hair to be cut.

Were you a Guardian of that Workhouse under the old System?
There were no Guardians.

Was it managed by a Vestry?
It was. I had Authority as a Parochial Minister by the Statute to visit the Workhouse, and to see that every thing was properly managed.

Would not an Action lie against you and your Brother Vestrymen for having committed an Assault in ordering the cutting of those Children's Hair?
I was not a Vestryman; if I had been a Vestryman, and the Vestry had ordered the Hair of Persons to be cut off, against their Will, as a Mark of Degradation, or if they should esteem it a Mark of Degradation to be so cut, I apprehend an Action of Assault would lie against those who did it, whether under the old Law or under the new.

Do you know that the Towcester Guardians do order the Hair to be cut off there as a Mark of Degradation?
It was reported to me that it is done, and that it is esteemed a Mark of Degradation.

This Boy that came to be an Apprentice at Bradford had not been in the Workhouse?

He had not.

Have you seen anybody except the Schoolmaster who had been in the Workhouse?

No.

Did the Boy Brown tell you that he considered cutting the Hair a Degradation, and that that was one of the Terrors that kept him from the Workhouse?

Not in those precise Terms.

Does not it very often happen that Children that are admitted into the Workhouse have Ringworm and other Complaints, which render it necessary that the Hair should be cut?

Most probably it is so, but that would not affect a general Regulation.

But from the Description of Persons who usually go into Workhouses, are you not of opinion that a great many of them come in with their Hair in such a filthy State that it would be right to cut it to a moderate Length, at all events?

Very proper to cut it to a moderate and proper Shortness, as it is usually cut.

You do not know of your own Knowledge that the Hair of the Paupers in that Workhouse is cut too short?

I know it from the Report of the Person whose Authority I have given.

This Bradford Schoolmaster?

Yes.

Is the Practice confined to Children, or do they shave the Hair of the Men and Women?

I understood from him that it was not confined to Children, but that it was the general Practice to crop the Paupers close.

Men as well as Boys?

Yes.

And Women as well as Men?

I understood Women as well as Men.

Are you aware that in the Army not only the Men but the Officers are obliged to have their Hair cut short?

If a man enters the Army voluntarily he must submit to the Regulations of the Army.

Do not you think that if a Man goes into the Workhouse he ought to submit to the Regulations of the Workhouse, even supposing them to have a Regulation that the Hair shall be cut short?

If a Man applies in Necessity for Relief he ought not to be subject to any odious Conditions in receiving that Relief.

But in your own Workhouse you did cut the Hair of the Boys who came in?

Their Hair was cut when it required to be cut, but it was not cut like the Hair of Criminals.

When Boys first came in, you submitted them to the Operation of cutting their Hair?

It depended upon whether it wanted to be cut or not.

If the Boys Hair required cutting you would not allow them to wear their Hair in the State in which it was before?

The Observation that I made, upon which the Question was founded, refers not to Boys or Children merely, but to Adults.

The Question is with respect to Boys in your own Workhouse?

If they require to have their Hair cut it would be cut.

Whether they chose it or not?

I apprehend that they would not make the least Objection to have their Hair properly cut.

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When the Boys came in you cut their Hair?
If it was necessary.

What do you cut it for?
For the Purpose of Cleanliness, not for the Purpose of Degradation.

How do you know that in the Workhouse at Towcester the Boys Hair was cut in a different Way from the Way in which it was cut in your own Workhouse?
I understood that that was the Case from Mr. Smales.

Did you understand that before you produced the Cripple or afterwards?
I understood that such Regulations were put in practice before I produced the Cripple.

But you do not know how far that was practised in Towcester Union?
No; not of my own Knowledge.

And you cannot produce any Order from the Commissioners for that as a general Practice?
I should think the Commissioners would hardly think it expedient to publish such an Order.

But in point of fact you have not seen any such Order?
I have not seen any such Order.

Your Workhouse at Bowling is a small Building?
The Workhouse at that Time was a small Building.

Containing how many People?
There were very few Inmates; there were perhaps Six or Seven at a Time; not more than Twelve.

Out of that Number there were not above One or Two Boys?
Perhaps Two or Three Boys and Girls.

But still you thought it necessary, even in that small Workhouse, to cut the Boys Hair?
If it was required; just as it would be necessary to require them to wash their Hands and their Faces.

At Bradford there is a large Workhouse?
There is.

Have you ever been in it?
I have been once in it, but staid for a very short Time; I went to see a sick Person there.

Is that since the Election of the Board of Guardians, or before?
I believe since, but before any Regulations of the Commissioners were put into execution.

Were there many Boys in the Workhouse at that Time?
I cannot say.

Did you take the Trouble to inquire whether it was the Habit of the Workhouse to cut the Boys Hair?
I had no Time to make any Inquiries about any such Thing at the Time.

In your Workhouse near Bradford, before the Introduction of the new Poor Law, was the Hair of the Children cropped close?
It was not.

You were asked whether you were not aware that Soldiers are ordered to have their Hair cut short; are you not also aware that Soldiers are liable to corporal Punishment?
I am.

Would you consider that Circumstance as a Justification for introducing corporal Punishment in Workhouses?
Certainly not.

You stated that Samuel Pittam had received a Sum of Money to defray the Expenses of his Journey to Towcester to fetch the Cripple John Brown?
I stated that he received a Sum of Money to take him Apprentice, which he told

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told me was no Gain to him, but barely covered the Expenses of his Journey to fetch the Cripple, and other Charges that he was at for the Purpose.

Would that Sum have been sufficient to induce other Persons to take this Cripple as an Apprentice?
I should apprehend it would not; but I am unable to speak upon that Subject.

You say that Brown was a Cripple; was he able to do any Work in the Parish in which he lived before he was taken away by his Relation?
My Impression is that he had no Work to do; no Work that he could do to get his Living.

What would he have been content with out of the House?
I understood that he received 1*s.* 6*d.* a Week.

With that was he satisfied?
He would have been satisfied.

The Guardians, however, thought proper to discontinue that, and to say they would give him no Relief except in the Workhouse?
A Discontinuance of it was threatened.

What would it have cost to maintain him in the Workhouse?
I should apprehend it would cost them more than that.

About 3*s.* a Week?
I cannot say; I should think more than 2*s.*

Was he totally unable to work?
At any Occupation that could be obtained for him there.

Had he applied to a Magistrate for Relief?
I believe not.

You are not totally uninformed of the new Poor Law?
I know something about it.

You are aware that a Justice may order Out-door Relief, if a Person s infirm and totally unable to work?
I understand by the new Act it is allowed that in Cases of sudden and urgent Necessity any Justice may order an Overseer to give temporary Relief, but I question whether this would be one of those Cases.

In the Twenty-seventh Clause the Words are these: "And be it further enacted, that in any Union which may be formed under this Act it shall be lawful for any Two of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace usually acting for the District wherein such Union may be situated, at their just and proper Discretion, to direct, by Order under their Hands and Seals, that Relief shall be given to any adult Person who shall from old Age or Infirmity of Body be wholly unable to work, without requiring that such Person shall reside in any Workhouse." Do you consider that this young Brown was so totally unable to work at any Work which could be obtained at that Place as to bring him within the Clause?
So far as his Inability to work is concerned, but he was not an Adult.

Do you know whether it is the Practice of the Boards of Guardians to give Relief to crippled Children out of the Workhouse?
I do not.

Do you know whether there is a Regulation, that if a Person applies for Relief for a crippled Child he would receive Relief out of the Workhouse?
I do not know whether there is any such Regulation.

The Infirmity under which this Lad labours will not at all impede him in doing the Business to which he is now put?
No.

What will his Earnings be when he has acquired a Knowledge of his Trade?
I am not able to say; perhaps very scanty; for the Journeymen Tailors in our Neighbourhood have very low Wages generally.

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What Wages do they generally receive?

In some Parts of the Year they have pretty good Wages, but for a very considerable Portion of the Year the Wages of the most of them are exceedingly low; I should think, from what I have heard from some Persons in my Congregation who are of that Trade, into whose Circumstances I have had Occasion to inquire, that it will not be more than, on the Average, 10*s.* to 12*s.* a Week the Year round.

Was his Brother induced to take him as an Apprentice on account of finding that he had no other Subsistence offered to him except going into the Workhouse?

His Relative informed me that he saw no Means of keeping him from the Workhouse but taking him to be an Apprentice.

Did the Boy himself tell you that this cutting the Hair was one of the Terrors that had prevented him from going into the Workhouse?

He did not in direct Terms.

Did he state what his Objections to go into the Workhouse were?

His great Objections were the Confinement and Discipline which are practised in the House generally. The Boy on the Occasion referred to stated to me, that in the Union Workhouse (amongst other Things that excited his Apprehensions which he had heard of) was the Confinement of the Inmates in what he called "a Dark Hole," which I believe is usually called "the refractory Cell."

You say he has never been in the Workhouse himself?

He had not; but those "Terrors" were reported to him.

Have you ever made Inquiry about this Cell?

I understood from the Person whom I sent that there are such Cells in the Towcester Union Workhouse.

Did he see them?

I am not aware whether he saw them or not, but he ascertained from some Person connected with the House that there were such Places.

Then the Information upon which you conceive this to be true is that of Mr. Smales?

That of Mr. Smales.

How many Cells did you understand there were?

I know not how many; but in order to carry out one of the Clauses of the Act it is to be concluded that there will be Cells or Places of Confinement of some Sort.

What do you call Cells; is it a refractory Ward, or what is it?

They are called usually the Dark Hole; I do not certainly know what the proper Term is for them.

And your Supposition is that they are like Black Holes?

Perfectly dark.

Like what are called Dark Holes in a Barrack, a dark Place?

A perfectly dark Place.

Did you ask this Bradford Schoolmaster whether he inquired whether any Persons were ever put into those Dark Holes?

No, I did not ask him.

You were satisfied with ascertaining that there were Dark Holes there, but you did not ask him whether there were any Cases in which the Paupers had been put into them?

No.

Nor did you ask him precisely what Sort of Places they were, but you supposed them to have been dark Places?

Mr. Smales informed me that they are dark Places.

Did the Boy himself tell you that he was afraid of them?

The Boy himself told me that there were such Places, and that there were People put into them.

That

That was one of his Objects of Terror?
Yes.

Did he say that it was one of his Objects of Terror?
He did not state it in so many Words to me, but he intimated to me that they were among the Things that excited his Terror.

Will you, as nearly as you can, state what the Boy told you?
I have no Notes particularly of what the Boy stated to me.

Did he say any thing about Cells?
He told me about the Dark Holes.

He spoke of cutting the Hair and Dark Holes?
He spoke of cropping the Hair and of Dark Holes.

What did you understand the Black Holes to be for?
The Black Holes are to confine refractory Paupers in, according to one of the Clauses of the Act, which authorizes the Master of the Workhouse to confine refractory Paupers not more than Twenty-four Hours; but I cannot find in the Act any Definition of what it should be to be refractory. It appears to me to place a very terrible Discretion in the Hands of the Master of the Workhouse.

Do you find that in the Act?
Yes.

In which Clause?
In the Ninety-third Clause.

Will you read it?
The Clause refers to Penalties on Masters of Workhouses if they "shall punish with any corporal Punishment any adult Person in such Workhouse, or confine any such Person for any Offence or Misbehaviour for any longer Space of Time than Twenty-four Hours, or such further Space of Time as may be necessary in order to have such Person carried before a Justice of the Peace."

Is that all from which you infer that they are to put those Persons into the Black Hole?
It appears to me to be an essential Part of the System that there should be Places of Confinement, or else why was that Clause put into the Bill?

That is to say, that they should have the Power to confine a Pauper who is behaving ill and riotous, and so forth; but how do you infer from that they are to be confined in a dark Place?
I do not infer from that Clause that the Place should necessarily be dark, but I understand that there is to be a Place of Confinement, and I learn from Persons who have visited those Workhouses that they are dark Places.

In the Management of a Workhouse, is it not your Opinion that there must be some Means of enforcing the Rules of the Workhouse, if a Person absolutely refuses to submit to them?
The Means are at hand in the common Law of the Land.

But you are aware that they cannot be carried before a Justice of the Peace in many Cases without considerable Loss of Time?
There is in every Parish some proper Place of Confinement for such Persons under the Directions of the Constable; at least there is usually so in most Parishes.

Are you speaking of the West Riding?
I am speaking of the Agricultural Districts as well.

You are a Native of Essex?
I am.

Do you mean to say that in the Parishes in Essex there are Places for the Confinement of Persons under such Circumstances?
In most large Villages there are Places called Cages.

When you say "large Villages," do you mean Country Villages, or Places such as Chelmsford, and so forth?
I mean smaller Places than Chelmsford.

Rev. G. S. Bull.

Supposing they had recourse to putting them into Cages, would that be a less severe Mode of Punishment than putting them into a refractory Ward, as you call it?

I conceive it would be a regular and legal Mode of proceeding.

In point of Hardship to the Person, would it be less Hardship to the Person to be taken from the Workhouse and put into a Cage than to be put into a Ward or a separate Place within the Workhouse?

It would not be necessary to confine a Person in any Place at all in general, till an Opportunity might occur for carrying him before a Magistrate, and he could then be dealt with according to Law.

This Clause provides that the Master of the Workhouse must not confine a refractory Person above a certain Time before taking him to a Magistrate?

This Clause states that they shall not be confined "for any longer Space of Time than Twenty-four Hours, or such further Space of Time as may be necessary in order to have such Person carried before a Justice of the Peace;" but I conceive it is a Discretion very unfit to be trusted in the Hands of the Master of a Workhouse.

Supposing there were a refractory Person in the Workhouse whom it was evidently necessary to restrain, would it be a less Hardship upon that Person to be taken out of the Workhouse and put into the Cage than his remaining in the Workhouse and only being put into a separate Place?

It might be in some Circumstances a greater Hardship to him, but it would be better that that Hardship should be endured than that an Opportunity should be afforded, by means of those refractory Cells, for the Ill-treatment of Paupers.

At whose Discretion would you have them put into those Parish Cages?

I would have the Constable of the Parish consulted in this Case, he being a legal Officer.

Then you think it would be less Hardship for the Master of the Workhouse to apply to the Constable to direct him to put those refractory Men into the Parish Cage than for the Master of the Workhouse at his own Discretion to put them into the refractory Ward?

It might be a greater Hardship in individual Cases, but it would not be so dangerous to the general Liberty of the Subject.

Are they ever put into the Cages in Villages except for safe Custody?

I believe not.

Is there any Occasion for that in the Workhouse; is not the Workhouse sufficient to secure the Person?

They keep them very safely there.

Without having any Black Hole?

Without having any Black Hole.

Does not that seem to imply that it is done for Punishment?

Yes.

Have you visited any Union Workhouses?

I have not.

From what you have heard, do you believe that there are Three Workhouses in England that have a Black Hole in them?

I do not know by my own Knowlege whether they have Black Holes or not.

Have you ever been in an Union Workhouse?

Not in an Union Workhouse.

Why have you not?

I have no Wish to go into an Union Workhouse.

You have inveighed very greatly against the new Workhouses, have not you?

I have.

Rev. G. S. Bull.

Then did you not think it worth while to go yourself, and ascertain whether they were such Places as you represented them to be?
I have never felt the least Wish to enter into an Union Workhouse.

Nor by your Inspection to see whether the Representations that had been made to you were true?
I conceived it was not necessary for me to make any personal Examination.

You have been in the Workhouses under the ancient System?
I have been into some of them.

Are you aware that by the 30th of Geo. III. there was an Enactment to empower Justices and other Persons to visit the Parish Workhouses, and certify the State and Condition of the Poor therein to the Quarter Sessions, and that it was their Duty so to do?
I know that that was the Case; I know that I was once the Means of calling the Attention of a Magistrate to certain Abuses in the Workhouse myself under that Statute, which he immediately represented to the Quarter Sessions, and which were immediately remedied.

Are you of opinion that that Power was properly vested in the Magistrates, and that it was the best that could be applied for such Purposes?
I have the highest Esteem for the Character and Judgment of the Magistrates; and I have felt very sorry to observe that many Parts of the Operation of this Act are calculated to remove the Poor in a great measure from that Assistance and Protection which the Magistrates were once able to extend to them.

Will you have the goodness to look at the Forty-third Section of the new Poor Law; you will see it says, "And if in the Opinion of such Justice such Rules, Orders, Regulations, or Bye Laws, or any of them, have not been duly observed and obeyed in such Workhouse, it shall be lawful for such Justice to summon the Party offending in such respect to appear before any Two Justices of the Peace, to answer any Complaint: Provided always, that where no such Rules, Orders, Regulations, or Bye Laws shall have been directed by the said Commissioners to be enforced and observed in the Workhouse of any Parish, nothing in this Act contained shall be construed to restrain or prevent any Justice of the Peace, Physician, Surgeon, or Apothecary, or the Officiating Clergyman of any Parish, from visiting such Workhouse, and examining and certifying the State and Condition of the same and of the Poor therein, in such Manner as they or any of them are authorized to do in and by the said last-recited Act." Now, with the Exception of those Rules and Bye Laws enacted by the Commissioners, does not the Duty of the Magistrates remain, to inquire into the Condition of the Poor, as in the ancient Law?
It does; but that Exception is a most important one, which operates to preclude their Interference altogether.

Would it preclude them from reporting any Abuse which they saw in the Workhouse?
It might probably not hinder them from reporting any Abuse, but it is not every Magistrate that likes to encounter the Poor Law Commissioners.

What do you mean by "encountering the Poor Law Commissioners"?
I mean going to War with them.

Would it be going to War with them if a Magistrate complained that improper Proceedings took place in the Workhouse?
The Poor Law Commissioners are not very well pleased with those that find fault with them.

How do you know that?
I know by my own Observation.

What do you mean by your own Observation?
Nobody likes to be found fault with.

From what do you gather that the Commissioners have that Feeling?
I gather it from their extreme Sensitiveness when their Regulations are found fault with.

Rev. G. S. Bull.

How do they show that extreme Sensitiveness?
They show it frequently, whenever any thing is alleged against the working of the System.

What do they do in consequence?
They have a Right undoubtedly to inquire in their own Way respecting any thing that is alleged concerning them.

Do they write in an improper or a violent Manner?
I can state, from what has been lately brought to my Notice, that they do not always write, as I conceive, in a very courteous Manner to Individuals who differ from them.

In the Case of yourself, can you find fault with the Letter that was written to you asking you to give Information?
I have no particular Fault to find with the mere Wording of that Letter further than that it appears to me to be, in One Part of it, one of those Exhibitions of their Sensitiveness of which I have spoken.

You say there are other Cases in which you think they have written in a Way that was not proper?
Yes.

Will you point out those Cases?
I will point out One. The Poor Law Commissioners made a Reply to the Reverend William Carus Wilson of Casterton Hall, in answer to a Letter of his, (I find it in a Publication of his which I have in my Hand, being "Remarks on certain Operations of the new Poor Laws,") which I certainly do not think was very courteous.

What was that Reply?
The Reverend Mr. Wilson applied to them respecting a Rule of the Kendal Guardians, that the Paupers should be wholly maintained by the Union or not all, and respecting some Almshouses he wished to erect, and to which he says he received the following Reply: "With respect to the Question which you have thought it desirable to put to the Commissioners, as to your Intention to erect certain Almshouses, they are desirous of pointing out, that, if it formed any Part of their Duty to express Opinions upon any Object of Charity you might have in view, they should in this Case have been precluded from doing so by the Statement, that it is the chief Merit of your Plan 'to relieve the hurtful Pressure of the Poor Law System.' The Commissioners are not aware that any such hurtful Pressure exists, and decline therefore to give any Opinion as to the Expediency of your adopting a Plan for its Removal."

Is there any thing improper in that?
It is for your Lordships to form your own Opinion.

Can you point out any thing that appears to you to be uncourteous in that?
It seems to me that the Commissioners might have left Mr. Wilson to form his own Opinion of the new Poor Law System, and have given him the Information that he required.

Did they refuse him any Information?
They declined to give him any Opinion; and they did not answer his Letter till he wrote again.

They declined giving any Opinion as to what he himself means to do?
They do; but they give as a Reason, that he has made use of the Expression of the "hurtful Pressure" of the new Poor Law System.

They do not admit that there is any hurtful Pressure of the new Poor Law System, and why should they admit it if they do not think it exists?
They need not admit it, nor need they refuse Mr. Wilson a Reply.

They say, "If it formed any Part of their Duty to express Opinions upon any Object of Charity you might have in view;" do you think that it was their Duty to express an Opinion upon any Object of Charity which Mr. Wilson might have in view?
It might not be their Duty under the Act, but being applied to by a Gentleman

man for so good a Purpose, certainly the Commissioners might have given him a courteous Answer. *Rev. G. S. Bull.*

Is there any thing uncourteous in this?
I think so.

They should in this Case have been "precluded from doing so by the Statement, that it is the chief Merit of your Plan to relieve the hurtful Pressure of the Poor Law System." Now, if they had given an Opinion, would it not have been upon a Plan for that Purpose, according to the Statement of Mr. Carus Wilson himself?
It was not necessary that it should be so.

Was not it so stated by Mr. Wilson that that was his Object?
It was.

Then would not they have given an Opinion upon a Plan "to relieve the hurtful Pressure of the Poor Law System"?
They might have given an Opinion with regard to the Eligibility of Mr. Wilson's Plan, and have made a Reservation to themselves with reference to any hurtful Operations alleged.

Is there any other Case that you can point out of any Uncourteousness on the Part of the Poor Law Commissioners?
I am not at this Moment prepared to point out any particular Case.

Do you found the Charge you have made with respect to the Poor Law Commissioners returning uncourteous Answers, and your not choosing to come into contact with them, upon the Statement in this Letter?
No, I could not; because that Letter was not written at the Time.

Then what was it that prevented you?
I have made Remarks of their general Sensitiveness when they have been applied to, but I am not prepared to state specific Instances; I think they are sometimes very cross indeed.

What do you mean by Sensitiveness?
I mean that they are sometimes very cross in their Answers.

What do you mean by Sensitiveness?
I mean that sometimes in Answers that I have seen, which I cannot now specify or particularize (to Boards of Guardians, for instance, that have declined to comply with their Regulations), they have shown a good deal of Temper.

If you are so satisfied that they have shown a good deal of Temper, cannot you produce a single Instance?
I cannot at this Moment, but I have noticed it.

You will be under Examination again on Monday; can you produce an Instance on Monday?
I cannot say whether I can, but I will endeavour, if your Lordships wish it, to produce Instances.

You were understood to complain of some uncivil Expressions in a Letter addressed to you by Order of the Poor Law Commissioners?
I stated that I had no particular Complaint to make, except of One Part of it.

Did you publish a Letter in the Times in answer to the Letter of the Poor Law Commissioners?
I did.

Were these Expressions in that Letter: "Just observe the very kind Consideration of these Gentlemen for me, lest I should make Admissions or give any Answers prejudicial to myself. Sir, tell these insolent Men from me, that I am no Felon at the Bar of Justice, to whom such Advice and Caution is usually tendered; tell them, that I as a Clergyman do not receive my little Pittance for the Purpose of doleing out to the unfortunate Poor 'a coarser Sort of Food.'" Were those Expressions in your Letter?
Yes; I recollect those Expressions.

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You complain of Expressions that were contained in the Letter of the Commissioners to you?
Yes, of those referred to.

Do you consider those Expressions in Mr. Chadwick's Letter to you a Proof of their Sensitiveness?
I take that Caution as being one that was not at all necessary to be given to me, as if I was going to state something that was false and wrong.

Do you consider that a Proof of their Sensitiveness?
Yes.

Were not those the same Cautions that were put to you by this Committee the other Day?
They were.

Is this the Paragraph of which you complain as being cross: "The Commissioners have desired these Questions to be directed to you, because until the Facts which the Answers should disclose (assuming the Assertions to be true) be ascertained, Justice cannot be enforced. They do not of course desire you to give any Answers or make any Admissions which may be prejudicial to yourself." Is that what you complain of as being either discourteous or cross?
I certainly considered it at the Time as being a Caution which was not at all required; as quite superfluous on their Part.

Was there any thing in it uncourteous; can you suppose that it was meant with any Intention of annoying you or affronting you in any Way whatever?
I thought it was intended to frighten me.

Is there any other Thing that was mentioned to you as forming Part of the Terrors which prevented this Lad from going into the Workhouse besides the Cropping of the Hair and the Confinement in those Wards?
He stated that they separated the Men from their Wives, and the Children from their Parents.

He had no Wife?
He had not; but he had a Mother.

Then that Regulation could not apply to him?
Certainly not.

Was his Mother going into the Workhouse?
No.

Then how could the Regulation of the Workhouse, of separating the Mother from the Child, affect him?
The going into the Workhouse would separate him from his Mother, and would in a very great Degree, according to his Apprehension, prevent free Intercourse between him and his Mother; for he stated that in the Workhouse they were not allowed to speak to each other, except through a Hole in the Wall, or through some Place of that Description, and then only in the Presence of an Officer of the Workhouse.

Did you ever ascertain how far all that is true?
I have not ascertained that particular Fact myself.

Did you direct Mr. Smales to inquire into it?
I do not recollect that he made any Report on that particular Fact.

Is it not a Matter of public Notoriety touching the Practice of Union Workhouses?
He informed me that it was a Matter of public Notoriety that Parents and Children, and Husbands and Wives, were separated from each other, and that they were not allowed to speak to each other, except in the Presence of an Officer of the Workhouse.

Do you mean to say that a Mother and her Children in the Workhouse are not allowed to speak to each other?
No; I do not mean that in reference to the Cripple, who had not been confined there; but his Impression appeared to be, that if his Mother wanted to speak

speak to him when he was in the Workhouse she could not do it but in the Presence of an Officer of the Union. *Rev. G. S. Bull.*

And through a Hole in the Wall?
Through a Hole in the Wall.

Do you say upon your Oath that it is a Matter of Notoriety that that takes place?
I say upon my Oath that, to the best of my Recollection, I was informe by the Cripple that it was a Matter of Notoriety that that takes place, so far as the Hole in the Wall is concerned.

Did you derive from the Cripple the Information that he could not see his Mother when he was in the Workhouse without the Presence of the Officer of the Workhouse?
I did understand that he expected that would be the Case; he stated that they could not see their Relatives when they were in the Workhouse but in the Presence of an Officer of the Union.

Did you ever do any thing whatever to ascertain how far that is true?
I sent the Person to whom I have referred to make Inquiries.

Did Mr. Smales report that to you?
He reported that that was the Case, that there is an Officer present on such Occasions.

That upon all Occasions, when the Friends of a Person who is in the Workhouse come to see him, they have no free Communication with him without the Presence of an Officer of the Workhouse?
I understand that to be the general Regulation.

And such was Mr. Smales's Report to you?
Yes.

And through a Hole in the Wall?
No.

How came you to mention the Hole in the Wall?
From the Report of the Cripple.

Is it a Matter of public Notoriety that in these Union Workhouses Husbands are separated from their Wives, and Parents from their Children?
It is a Part of the Classification ordered by the Commissioners.

That has nothing to do with the Persons Friends being allowed to speak to them?
No.

That is quite a separate Matter, neither of which Circumstances could apply to the Cripple in question?
It might have applied to the Cripple in reference to any Communication with his Mother.

But as his Mother was not in the Workhouse is not it evident that that Regulation could not operate upon his Mind?
It might very powerfully operate upon his Mind with reference to any Communication with his Mother.

The Regulation being that the Mother and the Son being together in the Workhouse should not communicate, how would that affect a Communication between him and his Mother, she being out of the Workhouse?
The Regulation extended to Friends visiting those who might be in the Workhouse.

That is another Regulation; therefore is it not clear that the Regulation as to Separation within the Workhouse could have no Effect upon this Cripple?
It would affect him, so far as any Communication between his Mother and himself might be concerned.

Might not the Cripple naturally feel the strongest Disinclination to enter a Workhouse in which such Practices prevail, being a Proof of the general Severity of the System there adopted?
Undoubtedly; that was the Feeling he expressed to me.

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You have never seen any printed Regulations at the Towcester Union Workhouse?

I have not. I apprehend that there are many Regulations which it is not thought expedient to print.

Do you believe that there are any Regulations of so important a Character as those you have mentioned that are ever acted upon in any Workhouse without being printed and hung up?

I cannot tell; I said that it was my Apprehension that there would be many Regulations which it would not be considered expedient to print.

But you do not know that there are any such?

I do not know it of my own Knowledge.

Would not the Regulations of the Union Workhouse be equally stringent whether the Boy was in it without the Mother, or the Mother without the Boy, or whether they were both in together?

I apprehend no Alteration would have been made in either Case.

In either Case it would be equally uncomfortable to the Boy, having an Attachment to his Mother, to be placed where such Regulations existed?

I consider it would.

Have you seen this Boy lately?

I have not seen him lately.

You do not know whether he has had any Communication with his Mother since he has been at Bradford?

I do not; I should suppose he has, but I do not of my own Knowledge know it.

Personal Communication?

I believe not.

Has he expressed any great Distress at not having had that personal Communication?

He is living with his Half Brother, a very near Relative, to whom he is much attached.

You mean to say that he has not expressed any Distress on that account?

I am not aware that he has.

Are the Committee to understand that they have now got from you all the Grounds of Terror that operated upon the Mind of this Lad to prevent his going into the Workhouse?

I think I have stated the principal Things that were mentioned. I am not aware that I have omitted any referred to in that Part of the Letter of the Commissioners which has been read. He mentioned the Cropping of the Hair, and the Dark Hole, and the Difficulty of unrestrained Intercourse with his Mother.

At that very Time he was separated from his Mother, was not he?

No; he was then living with his Mother.

Did he say any thing with respect to the general Discipline of the Workhouse?

There was a general Feeling of Dread respecting it.

Might not there have existed in his Mind, as well as in the Minds of several other Persons, an Impression that this Union Workhouse was in fact a Prison, and one of the worst Description?

He expressed all that Fear respecting entering a Workhouse which I should expect a Person, under ordinary Circumstances, to have of entering a Prison.

Are not the Union Workhouses generally called and considered Prisons or Bastiles?

That Name is frequently used as a Term to characterize them; and I apprehend it could be proved that not Six Persons out of a Hundred applying for Relief that are offered Relief in the Workhouses accept the Offer.

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Where has the Name been given them of Bastiles?
Indeed I cannot say where it was first given.

Is it in the West Riding?
It has been very current in the West Riding.

Have you ever used it?
I do not know whether I have or not; I should have no Objection to use it.

Have you ever used the Word "Prison"?
I have called them Workhouse Prisons.

How do you define a Prison?
Because Persons are there subject in a very great measure, as I am informed, to Prison Discipline, frequently to Prison Dress and Prison Confinement, and I must say frequently to worse than Prison Fare.

[The Question is repeated.]
A Place of Confinement and Coercion.

With or without the Consent of the Person confined?
In the Case of a Prison, without the Consent of the Person confined.

And out of which he cannot get whenever he chooses?
Certainly.

Is that the Case with any of the Union Workhouses?
In the Case of the Workhouse the Consent of the Person is obtained upon, I conceive, unreasonable and illegal Conditions. Hunger drives him there, and he must submit to the Confinement of the Prison, and must consent to submit to it, before he can satisfy his Hunger.

He can come out of it when he likes?
Yes; but he must submit to Starvation as the attendant Condition of Liberty.

Has this Boy submitted to Starvation as the Alternative of his not going into this Prison?
No, he has not; he has found a Friend.

If all these Horrors existed in the Poorhouse at Towcester, how came it that you have not stated them either to the Board of Guardians or to the Poor Law Commissioners, in order that they might be removed?
I have thought best to appeal to Parliament, who have the Power of removing the Root of the Evil.

It would take some Time to remove the Root of the Evil; but would it not be a more ready Way to apply to those Persons that could have immediately removed the Evil?
I think not; I think the best Way is to lay the Axe at the Root of the Tree.

Might not the Axe have been laid at the Root of the Tree if you had shown that these Evils existed to the Poor Law Commissioners?
No; because a rigorous Test of Workhouse Discipline is a main Principle, or Root of the Tree, to nurture and guard which the Commissioners exist.

What Appeal to Parliament do you mean?
By Petitions. I have often petitioned against the Act.

Then you will not apply to the Persons that can set these Matters right, but you rather take the indirect Course of applying by Petition to Parliament for a Repeal of the whole Bill?
I conceive that the Guardians have no Power to remedy the Evils without the Sanction of the Poor Law Commissioners.

Then the Poor Law Commissioners have the Power?
They have the Power.

Why should not you apply to them to remedy these Things?
Because they are appointed for the Purpose of carrying into effect what a Noble Lord has designated, who is well acquainted with this Measure, and favourable to it, a "rigorous" System.

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And that is the Reason why you would not apply to those Persons who could, if those Evils had existed, have removed them?

I cannot conceive that any good Result could have followed any Application to them, when I learn from their own Documents that on a general Average not more than Five Applicants out of One hundred have accepted Relief in the Workhouses who have been offered that Relief. That is a Proof to me of the Existence of a most "rigorous" System.

Do not you think that the Workhouse being only provided for Persons who are unable to support themselves, and can show that they are unable to support themselves, that it is necessary that it should in some Degree be a rigorous System?

I consider that there ought to be no Rigour whatever in granting Relief to the Poor.

Do you think that Persons in the Workhouse ought to be better off, and have as little Restraint as they would have in their own Houses?

No; but I think they ought not to be worse, because Poverty is not a Crime.

In that Case, how would you prevent all the Inhabitants who happened not to be in very good Circumstances from going into the Workhouse?

I conceive that, according to the Suggestion in the Question, Prevention is better than Cure, and that if the Legislature, whose Duty it is to attend to these Matters, had endeavoured to prevent Poverty, rather than to adopt a rigorous System for punishing it, it would have been far better.

How are they to prevent Poverty?

There might be many Regulations adopted for the Purpose of encouraging Industry and preventing Poverty; but it is not for me to suggest to your Lordships, whose special Duty this is, what should be done in such Cases.

Do you look forward to a possible State in which there would be no Poor, and no Persons that would require Relief, but that everybody would be able to maintain himself from his own Resources?

I look forward to no such, as I conceive, Utopian State at all.

Then there would be a certain Number of Persons that must be relieved?

Certainly.

Then it would be necessary to ascertain how far those Persons are really Objects that require Relief?

It would.

Then is not it necessary to make the Workhouse a rather less desirable Place to reside in than their own Homes, in order to be quite sure that the Person is in Distress?

A Workhouse will always be to an Englishman a less desirable Place to reside in than his own Cottage.

Was not it so considered under the former System?

Undoubtedly.

Under the former System were they not relieved out of the Workhouse?

They were.

Did there not exist under the former System a strong Disinclination to go into the Workhouse?

I have seen it in many Instances.

Do you consider that this Pauper Brown is worse off, living with his Brother, acting as his Apprentice, and learning the Trade, than he would have been if he had continued a Parish Pauper at Towcester?

I think he is better off; and he is indebted to the Kindness of his Brother for it, and to the Charity which assisted him.

You said that in the Union Workhouse they separate Husbands and Wives; do you allude to Husbands and Wives of all Ages?

I understand they sometimes allow some very old Persons to live together; but I conceive that the Separation referred to is decidedly illegal. I am also

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instructed, in the Service which I administer under the Sanction of the Law, as a Clergyman of the Church of England, to call most solemnly upon the Husband and Wife at their Marriage to love and cherish one another at all Times, in Sickness and in Health, till Death shall part them; and I cannot conceive that I can possibly be justified in sanctioning the Separation of Husband and Wife, under any Circumstances but criminal Circumstances, at any Period of Life, and most certainly not in the Prime of Life, when their Affections are the warmest.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned to Monday next, Twelve o'Clock.

Die Lunæ, 21° *Maii* 1838.

The Lord WHARNCLIFFE in the Chair.

Operation of the Poor Law Amendment Act.

Rev. G. S. Bull.

The Reverend GEORGE STRINGER BULL is again called in, and further examined as follows:

DO you wish to explain some former Parts of your Evidence?
I do.

Will you have the goodness to give the Explanation?
In several of my Answers to Questions proposed by the Committee on the Subject of cutting off the Hair, as being one of the Terrors, as I esteemed them, of the Union Workhouse, I stated that such a Practice I conceived was an Assault; but I did not give Authority for that Statement, which I should now wish to do. The Case to which I refer is that of Ford v. Skinner and others (Carrington and Payne's Reports, Vol. IV. p. 239), and was tried at the Horsham Assizes in 1830 before Mr. Justice Bayley. The Defendants were Parish Officers of the Parish of Ninfield in Sussex, and the Plaintiff was a young Woman who was a Pauper in the Poorhouse. The Charge of false Imprisonment was not proved. The Assault complained of was, that on the 10th December 1829 the Defendants sent for the Plaintiff into a Room in the Poorhouse, and by Force, and against her Consent, cut off her Hair, and it appeared, in the Struggle occasioned by her resisting, that one of her Arms was bruised. It was shown that the Plaintiff wore long Hair, and kept it in a clean and neat State; and there was also Evidence given, that when the Plaintiff had shortly before gone with Two of the Defendants before the Magistrates at Battle, one of the Defendants, alluding to the Plaintiff and her Sister, who was also in the Poorhouse, said that he would soon do something "to take their Pride down." It also appeared that the Sister's Hair was cut off in a similar Way. Judge Bayley (in summing up) said, "However desirable such a Regulation as that of cutting off the Hair of Persons in the Poorhouse may be with regard to Health and Cleanliness, yet it is altogether unauthorized by Law, and is a wrongful Act, if done without the Consent of the Party. If in this Case it was done violently and with Force, and with the malicious Intent imputed, namely, of 'taking down the Pride,' and not with a view to Cleanliness, that will be an Aggravation, and ought to increase the Damages. You will therefore decide on the Motive which actuated the Defendants, and according to that Decision you will estimate the Amount of Damages." The Verdict was for the Plaintiff. Damages 60*l.*

That is the Case upon which you rely?
I rely upon that Case.

Are there any other Points that you wish to explain?
On the Point of Separation I declared to be illegal the Separation of Husbands from their Wives. I ground my Declaration of its Illegality upon the Case of the King v. the Inhabitants of Leeds, recorded in 4. Barnwell and Alderson's Reports, Page 498. The marginal Note is, "By the Statute of the Fifty-ninth of George the Third, Chap. Twelve, Sect. Thirty-three, a Wife and Eight unemancipated Children of a Scotchman who has not acquired any Settlement in England must, if chargeable, be sent by the Parish, along with the Husband, to Scotland, and cannot be removed to the maiden Settlement of the Wife." Lord Chief Justice Abbott (since Lord Tenterden) said, "This Question arises out of the compulsory Power formerly vested in Justices of the Peace, of removing the Wife from her Husband by Consent; and it is one, and that not the smallest, of the Evils attendant upon the Poor Laws, that Cases should

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have arisen under them in which this Court has held that such a Removal, amounting to a temporary Divorce, might lawfully be made." Mr. Justice Bayley said, "I am of the same Opinion. It is against public Policy and good Morals to permit the Separation of the Husband and Wife, even with their Consent." Mr. Justice Best (now Lord Wynford) was one of the learned Judges who concurred in this Judgment.

At what Date was that?
I have not particularly taken the Date.

It was before 1834?
Certainly.

Then it was lawful before the new Law to separate the Man from his Wife, however impolitic the Judges might have thought it?
But Lord Chief Justice Abbott on that Occasion stated it to be "one, and that not the smallest, of the Evils attendant upon the Poor Laws."

Still the Poor Laws then admitted of that Separation of Man and Wife?
It was ruled to be contrary to Policy and Morals to permit the Separation of Husband and Wife, even with their Consent.

That was the Opinion of Mr. Justice Bailey, speaking with respect to the Policy or the Morality of the Law; but according to the Law, or the Dictum of the Lord Chief Justice and the other Judges upon that Occasion, it was lawful to separate the Man from the Wife, was it not?
It appears that his Lordship, as I understand his Statement, considered it to be according to the Statute Law where the Parties consented, but opposed to the Common Law and good Morals.

That being the Case, why do you attribute the Power of separating the Man and Wife to the new Poor Law?
The new Poor Law, being called an Amendment of the old System, should, in my Opinion, have provided for rendering the Statute Law and the Common Law agreeable with each other in this Case; and I would add, that the old Poor Law did not contain those express Regulations that are now authorized by the Commissioners under the present Act for the Separation of Husbands and Wives.

Did you ever happen to read the Twenty-second of George the Third, Chapter Eighty-three, which is called the Gilbert Act?
I have read many Parts of that Act.

Does not that lay down certain Rules in the Schedule to the Act which are to be observed in all Gilbert Workhouses?
I cannot particularly state.

It gives the Power to Magistrates to draw up Rules for the Management of the Workhouses in those Unions?
Yes.

It adds at the End of the Act certain Rules, Orders, Bye Laws, and Regulations to be observed and enforced in every Poorhouse to be provided and established under the Authority of the Act of the Twenty-second Year of King George the Third; that is attached to the Act as a Schedule. Did you ever happen to see any of the Rules that have been established by Order of the Justices in Workhouses under Gilbert's Act?
I have not.

Are you aware that there were Two Acts of Parliament, one the Forty-fourth of George the Third, and the other the Forty-fifth, which gave to the Magistrates the same Power with respect to all other Workhouses as the Twenty-second gave to Magistrates with respect to the Workhouses in the Gilbert Unions?
I am not aware of it.

Did you ever visit a large Workhouse where the Magistrates Regulations had been put in force?
I am not aware that I ever did.

Are you aware that in almost all of those Workhouses of any Size whatever the Regulation of cutting off the Hair is one of the Regulations ordered by the Justices? *Rev. G. S. Bull.*

I am not aware what Regulations may have been adopted under Gilbert's Act, or under succeeding Acts, but I conceive that if any Regulations have been adopted under any Act of Parliament which are contrary to the Common Law, those Regulations ought not to be continued.

But supposing them to be according to the Statute Law, whether they are contrary to the Common Law or not, why do you lay to the Charge of the new Poor Law those which were Regulations under the old Law?

If those were Regulations under the old Law they are still Regulations under the new, and they are equally objectionable under the new, and still more so, because they are more systematized and universal than they were under the old.

Did you ever petition or take any public notice of those particular Grievances under the old Law?

My Attention was never drawn to them.

But in point of fact, if such is the Case, as has been stated in the former Question, how do you lay those Regulations to the Charge of the new Law, they having been Law before that was enacted?

I should lay the same Charge against any Law that might enact any Regulations contrary to the Common Law of the Land.

But those are the old Regulations to which the Question refers?

The Regulations under the new Poor Law are made by the Commissioners under the Authority of the Act.

Does the new Poor Law do any thing more than change the Power of adopting Regulations in the Workhouses from the Magistrates to the Poor Law Commissioners?

It takes from the Magistrates the Power of interfering when those Regulations are in force.

It gives to the Commissioners the same Power with respect to the Regulations that the Law gave to the Magistrates before, does it not?

But it does not give to the Poor that Protection which they before derived from the Magistrates, because the Poor had the Power of Appeal to the Magistrates in all Cases; but if there be certain Rules and Orders of the Poor Law Commissioners issued they cannot appeal against them.

Can they not appeal to the Commissioners as they formerly did to the Magistrates?

They can; but when it was intended by this Law to produce a centralizing System such an Appeal would probably be attended with very little Effect.

That is your Opinion only?

It is not only my Opinion, but in all Cases which I have known, where Boards of Guardians have wished to depart from the Regulations which the Poor Law Commissioners have laid down for "carrying out" this Act, as they frequently express it, I have noticed that the Poor Law Commissioners have declined to consent to any Amelioration which the Guardians have proposed. I wish to confirm the Statement which I made in my former Examination, respecting the Confinement and the Imprisonment in the Workhouse, as I term it.

Is there not one manifest Distinction which has been created by the new Poor Law Amendment Act in this respect, that those Poor Law Unions are made applicable to the State of the Poor in every Parish almost in the Kingdom, whereas before the Gilbert Union Houses were established only when the Parishes themselves desired that such Houses should be established, and therefore were comparatively few?

I conceive that there is this Distinction, and that the very Character of the new Poor Law is Universality.

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On that account, if a Hardship exists, it exists in a great many more Cases than it did before?

It does.

Under the former Poor Law had the Magistrates the same Power as the Poor Law Commissioners possess at present, of making all such Rules, Orders, and Regulations for the Management of the Poor, for the Government of Workhouses, the Education of Children therein, and for the Management of the Parish Poor Children, as they may think proper,—all which Orders and Regulations are to have Authority of Law?

Certainly not.

With respect to the Confinement which you said was one of the "Terrors" of the Workhouse, have you any thing to add?

In my Evidence already given I was frequently questioned by Noble Members of this Committee as to the Extent to which Places of Confinement, which I have termed "Black Holes" prevailed in Workhouses, and I was asked by one Most Noble Member, whether I could point out Three Unions in all England where such Places were erected; I now beg to produce to the Committee the Plans appended to the First Report of the Poor Law Commissioners, in which those Places of Confinement called "Refractory Wards" are found marked upon those Plans, which Plans are recommended for the Consideration and Adoption of Boards of Guardians in different Parts of the Kingdom; and I observe that the said "Refractory Wards" are placed beside the Dead House, and in the Plan I perceive that they are dark, that there is no Window, but only a Door. I would appeal to your Lordships whether the placing such a dark Cell by the Side of the Dead House has not undoubtedly the Appearance of being done in terrorem.

What are those Plans?

They are the Plans recommended by the Poor Law Commissioners for the Consideration of the Boards of Guardians, and for their Adoption; and the Poor Law Commissioners state that they have been at great pains to draw those Plans, having professional Assistance in so doing, and to accommodate them to the working of the new Law.

Are there several Plans?

There are.

Have you visited any of the Workhouses in order to see whether those Arrangements of the Refractory Ward and the Dead Ward have been carried into execution in the Way you suppose from these Plans?

I have before stated more than once that I have never visited one of those Workhouses, and have not the least Desire to do so, having a great Disinclination to come near any such Place.

Have you had an Opportunity of ascertaining whether, in point of fact, the Refractory Wards are Black Holes, as you call them, and are placed near the Dead House?

I am informed by those who have visited the Workhouses that that is the Case.

Can you state who your Informant is?

I have already named Mr. Smales, and I apprehend that his Testimony could be confirmed from any other Quarter; and I would most respectfully state to your Lordships that such an Arrangement appears to me to be highly unconstitutional, inconsistent with the Liberties of the Subject, and calculated to terrify as well as to insult the Poor in their Distress.

You do not know the Fact yourself?

It is sufficient for me to see that such was the Intention of the Poor Law Commissioners in drawing these Plans.

Did the Poor Law Commissioners draw these Plans?

They are published by their Recommendation, and appended to their own Report, and are referred to by them as being authorized.

Do you know of any such Arrangement being carried into execution?
I am not personally aware of it, but I apprehend that Evidence may be produced in abundance to this Committee to justify my Conclusion.

You say it is sufficient for you to know that such was the Intention; for what Purpose is it sufficient?
For my own Opinion, and it is sufficient Authority for me to state that such Places are provided.

Will you turn your Attention to the Twenty-second of George the Third, which gives a Power to Justices for the Order and Regulation of the Workhouses established under that Act, and attaches to it as a Schedule certain Orders, Rules, and Regulations; in your former Evidence you stated that no Power of Confinement ought to be intrusted to the Governor of a Workhouse of a refractory Person, that that was contrary to the Law and Spirit of the Constitution?
I did; and I beg at the same Time to add, that I conceive Places of Detention are quite unnecessary in an Union Workhouse; the Walls of that Workhouse, and the Door, which is constantly kept by some proper Person, will operate abundantly as a Place of Detention; and to have a Prison within a Prison is what we know nothing of in a Workhouse; it is a Practice which we have heard of in Venice, but not in England.

You say that you never heard of it in England?
I have not heard of it before this Act passed, in a Place for the Relief of the Poor in England.

These are the Rules and Bye Laws contained in the Schedule, the Second of which says, "And if any such poor Person shall refuse or neglect to perform the Work or Labour in which he or she shall be so employed or shall be directed to do by the Governor, every such Person shall be punished by Confinement;" are you aware of that?
I am now aware of it from what is read to me from the Statute mentioned, but I conceive that there will be found Authorities against such a Statute. I refer particularly to Justice Blackstone on the Rights of Persons, Vol. I. p. 136,—a Reference which I understand from Lawyers is of great Authority.

You are now speaking of Commentaries upon the Law?
Of the Common Law of the Land.

Are you aware of that Power having been given by Statute; are you aware that under the Statute there was a Power to confine refractory Persons?
I understand from what is now read to me that that is the Case, but the Common Law will control Acts of Parliament.

Do you mean to deny that under this Act of Parliament Governors of Workhouses have the Power of confining refractory Persons?
I mean to say that, under the Common Law, the Persons so confined have a Remedy at Law. I will refer your Lordships to Coke's Reports, Fourth Volume, Dr. Bonham's Case, Page 375, Edition 1826: the Words used are these: "It appears then in fact, that in many Cases the Common Law will control Acts of Parliament, and sometimes adjudge them to be utterly void." Lord Chief Justice Holt quotes this very Case, which will be found in Twelfth Modern Reports, Page 688, and says, that "what my Lord Coke says in Dr. Bonham's Case is far from any Extravagancy."

Are you aware that in the same Rules and Regulations which the Committee have brought to your Recollection, in the Schedule to the Twenty-second of George the Third, the Fourth of them is; "And if any such poor Person shall refuse or neglect to do such Work as shall be allotted to him or her, or wilfully spoil the same, or depart from such House without Leave from the Governor, or shall be guilty of any Disorder or Disobedience to these Rules and Orders, the Governor shall reprove such Person for the same, and punish him or her by Confinement or Alteration of Diet, as the said Governor shall think fit"?
I was not aware of that.

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Do you mean to give it as your Opinion, supposing those Words to be inserted in that Act of Parliament, that there was any thing in the Common Law that would have prevented the Governor from confining a refractory Person?

My Impression unquestionably is, that the Person so confined would have had a Remedy at Common Law against the Person so confining him, whether it were Magistrate or Governor, or anybody else.

Then in that Case, if any refractory Person has been confined in any Workhouse since the Orders of the Poor Law Commissioners have issued, the Persons who have so confined them are equally liable to an Action?

They are.

Were there in the Workhouses established under the Gilbert Act Places of Confinement; as in the new Union Workhouses?

I am not aware that there were.

In one of your Answers on the last Day you were examined you stated that you drew the Inference that there was a Power of Confinement from certain Words of the Ninety-third Section of the Poor Law Act; have you ever looked at the Act of Parliament of the Fifty-fourth of George the Third, Chapter One hundred and seventy, which is called "An Act to repeal certain Provisions in Local Acts for the Maintenance and Regulation of the Poor, and to make other Provisions in relation thereto"?

I have not attended to that.

Are you aware that those Words in the Ninety-third Clause of the Poor Law Amendment Act are merely a Transcript of certain Words in the Seventh Clause of that Act?

I was not aware of it; but their being a Transcript of any Act would not reconcile me to it.

But in that Case they are not new Words in the Law, but they are Words that were inserted in a previous Statute, and have been reinserted in this, inasmuch as the Power of making Bye Laws and Regulations has been transferred to the Commissioners?

I apprehend that one great End of Legislation is to amend what is amiss, and not re-enact it.

But whether that be your Opinion or not, is there any thing new in those Words, or is it not a Transcript merely, adapted to the new Circumstances of the Appointment of the Commissioners?

Had such a Circumstance happened under any Law I should have made my Objection to it.

Would it not be better, if such is your Opinion of the Law, for you, instead of making those Assertions in public Meetings, to cause an Action to be brought against any Person who shall confine one of those refractory Paupers?

If I had at my own Command the ample Resources which are placed at the Disposal of the Poor Law Commissioners, I would bring Actions against every Union throughout England and Wales.

How does it happen, amongst the great Number of Persons who are averse to the New Poor Laws, that Persons cannot be found to bring one single Action?

I know not how that has happened; I know that I have, in my humble Way, spent all that I can afford in endeavouring constitutionally to represent the Grievances of the new Law.

Has the Opinion of any Counsel, to your Knowledge, been taken upon that Point?

I am not aware whether it has or not.

That would not be attended with any great Expense?

It would be attended with more Expense than a poor Curate can afford.

But there are many Persons besides poor Curates who are anxious Opposers of the new Poor Law?

There are; but there are very few Persons who are willing to bear the Brunt of the Battle.

Are

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Are you a Lawyer; did you ever study the Law?

I am not a Lawyer. The only Part of the Law of England which I have studied is the Holy Scriptures, which I understand are Part and Parcel of the Law of the Land; and I should have been contented to have confined myself to that Study had I not found it necessary to arm myself with Proofs and Authorities that Christianity has been bound up with our Common Law from Time immemorial.

You state that the Holy Scriptures are Part of the Law; do you mean that we are now living under the Law of the Books of Numbers and Leviticus?

I mean under the moral Precepts of the Holy Scriptures, and of Christianity in particular. I do not refer to the ceremonial Religion of the Jews.

Your Opinion is, that those Powers given under the Gilbert Act, of Confinement in the Workhouse, extended by subsequent Acts, and confirmed by the Act of the Fifty-fourth of the King, and the same Powers given by the new Poor Law Act, being in your Opinion contrary to the Common Law, which Common Law controls the Statute Law, are in themselves null and void?

It is, most decidedly. I ground my Opinion upon the Authorities already quoted.

Are you not also of Opinion, from many legal Authorities, that all Laws are not legal?

I am; I would rather say that all Statutes are not legal, though that might seem a Contradiction.

If they are not legal, do you apprehend that the Subjects of them are not bound to obey them?

Certainly they are not.

Did you hold that Doctrine at the Meeting at Bradford?

I did not; but if I am asked that Question by your Lordships upon my Oath I feel it my Duty to state what is my decided Conviction on the Subject; and I may refer you, though I have not the Quotation with me at present, to a memorable Passage, I believe by Justice Blackstone, upon that very Point.

But still this is your Opinion, that a Person would be justified in disobeying the Statute Law which appears to be against the Common Law?

I derive that Opinion from very high legal Authority.

You think yourself entitled as a Clergyman of the Church of England to hold that Language?

I have not held that Language as a Clergyman of the Church of England; it has been my Endeavour on all Occasions to direct the People to constitutional Remedies, and to peaceable Measures. I should be exceedingly sorry to utter any thing that was calculated to promote a Resistance to the Law; I had rather that the Legislature removed this Cause of Complaint which now exists.

And that was your Motive for stating what you did at the public Meeting at Bradford?

My Motive has always been to produce a Removal of this Grievance by legal and peaceable Means.

Have you any further Explanations to offer to the Committee with respect to your Evidence?

I believe not at present.

Any thing with respect to the Terrors which the Commissioners excite?

I spoke of the Disinclination of many Persons to come into contact with the Poor Law Commissioners; I certainly might add upon that Subject that the very extensive Powers which they possess of summoning Persons before them to be examined on Oath, and the Penalties which are attached "to any Contempt" (I quote the Words of the Act) "of them sitting as a Board," would naturally deter many Persons from any Interference that might bring them into controversy with the Poor Law Commissioners.

Do you know any Fact by which that may be proved?

I know a Fact, which I have recently learnt, respecting a highly respectable Clergyman; I know it from a Publication of his.

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What is his Name?

The Reverend William Carus Wilson, of whom I spoke before, the Rector of Whittington. That Reverend Gentleman states that, in consequence of some Statement which he had made respecting a poor Person, he was summoned by the Assistant Commissioner, Mr. Voules, to appear before him. "At the Outset of the Business, after stating he forbade the Expression of Opinions, that he sat there as 'sole Judge,' that he took upon himself the entire Responsibility of the Proceedings, that he felt himself one of the Parties aggrieved, he proceeded to put me upon my Oath; he called upon me to state to him, and bring forward my Witnesses. Not hesitating to admit that the Business was of a serious Aspect, and might involve me in criminal Proceedings, I protested against being compelled to state that on Oath which might lead to such Consequences, and cause me to become my own Accuser. Mr. Voules, however, called upon me to proceed." The Publication afterwards states, that Mr. Wilson wrote to the Poor Law Commissioners, complaining of the Conduct of Mr. Voules, and that he received an Answer from them on that Part of the Subject to the following Effect: "The Commissioners do not perceive" (I merely give a Quotation from their Letter) "that in the course of that Investigation Mr. Voules exceeded his Powers, or that his Behaviour towards you gives you any just Cause of Complaint."

What is the Date of the Pamphlet?

The 5th of April 1838.

When did that come to your Knowledge?

It came to my Knowledge since I arrived in Town.

That could not have operated upon your Mind in preventing you from bringing those Cases before the Poor Law Commissioners before?

No; but if I saw Reason to modify the Opinions which I formerly held, I should do so; on the contrary, those Facts confirmed me in the Assurance that I took a correct View of them.

But you not having known of this at the Time, you neglected to answer the Letter of the Poor Law Commissioners, and to put this Matter in a Train of Inquiry by the Poor Law Commissioners, how could that operate upon your Mind in leading you to refuse to give the Information which they asked for?

It was impossible that could operate upon my Mind, but I knew that they had extensive Powers to summon Persons to answer before them, the Commissioners, on Oath.

Then this is an ex post facto Argument for your Feelings at that Time?

This is a Confirmation to me of the Correctness of the View I took of the Law.

Have you any further Explanations to offer to the Committee upon any Part of your Evidence?

I do not recollect any at present.

How long did you know this poor Cripple before you made that Speech at Bradford?

He was introduced to me, I believe, the Day before the Meeting took place.

By whom?

By a Tradesman at Bradford of the Name of Squire Auty, a Painter.

You stated that a Friend has mercifully delivered him; who was that Friend?

That Friend was his Brother, with whom Auty was acquainted. I was not before acquainted with the Parties.

You say that this Lad's "Mother is a poor Widow, and receives for one of her Family a single Loaf in Out-door Relief"?

That was my Information.

Who informed you of that?

The Cripple and his Brother.

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You took no other pains to ascertain that Point?
I did not at that Time.

At what Time did the Cripple go to Bradford?
I believe within a few Weeks of the Time last referred to, that is, the Time of the public Meeting.

Do you know what the Mother was allowed up to the Christmas preceding?
I do not.

Do you know what she was allowed at the Time you made that Speech?
A Loaf for her Child, I understood.

Has she a Child besides this Boy?
A Girl at home; and a Loaf for her Child, besides the Relief allowed for the Boy whilst he continued there.

Was there no Relief allowed for the Woman herself?
I did not understand that there was.

Have you directed Mr. Smales to inquire into that Circumstance?
I am not aware that he had any such Direction.

Do not you think that after you had stated that Fact, and it being doubted, it became you to direct Mr. Smales to inquire into that Fact amongst others?
He inquired into all the Facts that I stated; I did not state any thing of the Mother having Relief.

"His Mother is a poor Widow, and receives for one of her Family a single Loaf in Out-door Relief;" it would appear from that Statement that she had nothing for herself, but that One single Loaf was allowed for one of her Family?
Yes.

Did not that Woman receive Relief for herself?
I was not aware that she did.

But from the Statement you have made one would draw the Inference that nothing was allowed to that Woman but One Loaf?
Decidedly.

If she did at that Time receive Out-door Relief, the Person who gave you that Information misled you?
It would follow that he had not given me that Information.

And that he kept back certain Information which affected the Case?
It would. I would add, however, that I am not aware, nor have I Reason to believe, that she did receive Out-door Relief for herself. I have not the least Reason to believe to this Moment that she did receive Out-door Relief.

Have you inquired into the Fact?
No.

How then can you speak to it?
The Fact was not produced before me.

Then is this the State of the Case, that an Inference was drawn, that no Relief was given to the Family except the Loaf to this One Child?
Yes; that was my Information at the Time.

Supposing the Facts were otherwise, you think that was enough to justify you in speaking of the Case in the Way you did?
Yes; the Facts being unknown to me.

But you stated that you could give Names and Places, if it was not for the Fear of their losing this single Loaf of Bread?
The Names of the Parties referred to, and the Places where they resided.

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But did you fear that this Loaf of Bread, not being given for the Mother but given for the Child, would be taken away if you gave those Names and Places?

I had Reason to fear that such would be the Case.

Why did you fear it?

I argued that from the very frequent Instances of the Manner in which Persons who are inconvenienced, or whose Minds are displeased, will act in such Cases.

Did you conceive it from supposing that you yourself should have acted in that Way under the same Circumstances?

No; certainly not.

Why then did you think it necessary to suppose that the Poor Law Commissioners would do that Act which you think cruel, when you yourself would not have done it?

The Poor Law Commissioners are not allowed to interfere in individual Cases.

Then what Reason have you to suppose that the Guardians would do an Act of Cruelty more than yourself?

I have no Reason to suppose that they would not.

Do not you know that if the Guardians had withdrawn that Loaf in consequence of any thing you had said, and the Person had died in consequence, they would have been indictable for Murder?

My Impression is, that the Guardians have rendered themselves, according to such Reports as I have seen, indictable for Murder.

Do you mean the Guardians of Towcester?

I mean any Guardians.

[The previous Question is repeated.]

Yes, in the Case supposed.

You stated in your former Evidence that this single Loaf had been discontinued?

It has.

Do you know from what Cause?

I understand by a general Regulation to discontinue Relief when a Child becomes Twelve Years of Age.

At this Meeting at Bradford you are reported to have said, "I will tell you their Names confidentially, and show you the Proofs;" were those your Words?

Those were not my precise Words; that was the Substance of what I said.

When you say "Proofs," did you mean what you have given as Proofs, or any other Circumstances?

I meant the Particulars of the Case by which I felt myself justified in giving Currency to the Statement.

Besides this Case with respect to the Cripple and his Mother, did you also state that a young Woman in that House had been "stripped and flogged on her naked Back, like a Soldier, with a Whip having Eight or Ten Lashes"?

The Boy stated that.

Did you state it in your own Speech?

I said that such was the Statement the Boy had to make; and the Boy himself made that Statement with his own Mouth.

Do not you conceive that a Statement of that Sort addressed to an Assembly of 700 People in a Town considerably excited against the Poor Law was calculated to increase the angry Feelings that existed at that Time?

It is calculated, in my Opinion, to show the Evil of intrusting so much irresponsible

irresponsible Power to Individuals, and that being so intrusted, as I apprehend, under the Poor Law Act, it was certainly calculated to excite the Feelings of the People against that Act. *Rev. G. S. Bull.*

Had you taken pains to ascertain how far so serious a Charge as that was true?
I had not at the Time.

Had you taken it merely upon the Statement of the Boy?
I took it upon the Statement of the Boy; his Credibility being affirmed to me by his Relative, who was a respectable Person.

And you thought yourself entitled, upon the mere Statement of the Boy, to lay before that Meeting, under the Circumstances stated, a Statement of that Kind?
Upon the Statement of the Boy, whose Credibility was affirmed by his Relative.

And upon that Authority only you stated that Circumstance?
Not on that Authority only, except as regarded the individual Case. I argued the high Probability of such Cases taking place, not only from Statements that had been frequently and publicly made, but also from the very Character of the Law itself.

Then you had no Authority whatever but that of this Boy?
I had no Authority for the particular Statement but that of the Boy. I wish to add to the Answer already given, that the Agency employed or recommended in the instructional Letter of the Poor Law Commissioners to Guardians, Third Report, Appendix A., was one Circumstance which induced me to think that Statement highly probable.

What is that Agency?
In Page 49, in the Appendix to the Third Annual Report, in a Letter from the Poor Law Commissioners, addressed to various Boards of Guardians, it is stated, that "The most successful Appointments, where Candidates experienced in the Administration of well-managed Parishes were not forthcoming, have been from the superior Non-commissioned Officers in the Army;" and again, from efficient Men from the Metropolitan Police. With regard to the former of such Persons, they have probably been accustomed, not only to Flogging, but perhaps some of them at some Time themselves have been flogged, and I should think that harsh Treatment from such Hands would not be at all surprising.

Were you not brought up in the Navy?
I was a very short Time in the Navy. I left it when I was Fifteen Years of Age.

Have you seen Flogging in the Navy?
I have seen it, and always with great Abhorrence. I was also going to say, that I should have been happy to have modified those Expressions respecting the Tendency of the Act if I had seen any Reason to do so; but that I have since seen an authenticated Case of Flogging in an Union Workhouse which I think deserves the Attention of your Lordships, and which I shall be happy to produce. The Case has been recently heard before the Magistrates of Horncastle in Lincolnshire, respecting the Treatment of a poor Girl of unsound Intellect, by William Gibbons, the Master of the Thimbleby Workhouse. That Case was brought before and adjudged by the Magistrates, before whom it appears to have been proved that the Girl was flogged in the Workhouse, and the Parties guilty of doing so were fined 2*l.* 10*s.*, and 17*s.* 6*d.* Costs. The Newspaper Account states, that great Credit is due in this Case to the Reverend Mr. Fendall, Rector of Bucknall. I applied to that Reverend Gentleman, and he informs me that the Statement in the Newspaper is substantially correct, with the Exception that Johnson did not say in his Evidence that he saw the Women flogging the Girl; neither was there any Hole in the Wall; but he heard her Cries, and afterwards met the Women returning from the Stable, who acknowledged that they had been flogging her.

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Was that Case brought before the Magistrates by Order of the Board of Guardians in that Union?

The Case was brought before the Magistrates by Order of the Board of Guardians; but the Statement made here is the following: "As soon as Mr. Fendall heard of the Ill-treatment towards the Girl, he rode over to Thimbleby, to make Inquiries upon the Subject, and having met the Witness Johnson, he made the same Statement to him as he made to the Magistrates now."

What are you reading from?

I am reading the Account which I sent to Mr. Fendall, and which he has returned, stating that it is correct.

Where did you get it from?

From the Lincoln Gazette, the 10th April 1838; it continues, "and therefore, as soon as the Committee who were ordered to examine into the Case had reported to the Board that the Girl had received no Injury, but that it had done her Good, the Reverend Gentleman stood up, and stated what he had heard from Johnson; when Mr. Gulson observed, that the Committee had neglected their Duty in not making the proper Inquiry, and hoped that the Board would not let the Matter drop here, and recommended that the Case should be turned over to the Magistrates, as had been suggested by the Reverend Mr. Pearse and Mr. Elwyn; which was finally agreed to."

In point of fact, that Case was brought before the Magistrates by the Direction of the Board, in the first instance, and of Mr. Gulson, the Assistant Commissioner?

It was not brought before the Magistrates by Direction of the Board, as appears by this Account, until the Rev. Mr. Fendall interfered. It seems the Report made to the Board was, "that she had received no Injury, but that it had done her Good."

When that Report was read in Mr. Gulson's Presence, the Assistant Poor Law Commissioner, he insisted upon its being brought before the Magistrates?

Yes; but that did not, according to the Statement here made, prove the Forwardness of the Board to bring it before the Magistrates.

In consequence of Mr. Gulson recommending that it should be brought before the Magistrates, the Persons were punished according to the Means the Magistrates had in their Power?

Yes; and Mr. Gulson, it appears, was induced, in consequence of the Rev. Mr. Fendall's Firmness, to press it.

Are you informed that there was any Backwardness upon the Part of the Board to do so?

I am merely referring to the Account.

That had the Effect in your Mind of producing a Feeling that such a Case as that which was stated by the Boy was true?

It strongly induces me now to believe that such Cases are very likely to occur, and that if some Person does not providentially happen to get a Knowledge of it many such Cases will lie hidden till the Judgment Day.

Was Mr. Fendall an ex officio Guardian?

He is Guardian of the Parish of Bucknall.

That Parish was in the Union where this Workhouse was?

I understand so.

Who were the Persons who flogged the Girl, and who were fined?

The Master of the Workhouse was fined.

Does that appear in the Statement?

It appears in the Statement, that "the Master of Thimbleby Workhouse was brought before the Magistrates at their Office;" and the Account concludes with stating, that "the Magistrates retired, and on their Return fined the Defendant."

Do you know whether he has been dismissed from the Workhouse?

The Report does not state.

Have

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Have you, since the Time when you spoke at the Meeting at Bradford, inquired into the Truth of the Facts stated by the Boy respecting this Flogging?
I have recently done so.

What has been the Result of that Inquiry?
The Result of that Inquiry is, that she was not flogged, but that she was beaten with the Hand, that her Hair was cut off, and that she was twice confined in the dark Hole. The Two latter Circumstances were not reported to me at the Time, or I certainly should have mentioned them also.

But perhaps if you had had this Information at the Time you would not have stated that she was "stripped and flogged on her naked Back like a Soldier"?
I certainly should not.

Then the Facts of the Case have not turned out such as to justify you in stating that Circumstance?
Had I known the Facts as I have since ascertained them I should not have been justified in making the Statement to the Extent that is mentioned; but I should have been justified in adding the other Particulars to which I have referred.

Then in point of fact it is not true that this Girl was "stripped and flogged on her naked Back like a Soldier, with a Whip having Eight or Ten Lashes"?
That Part of the Statement is not correct.

Nor any thing like it?
She was beaten, and not flogged.

In what Way was she beaten?
With the Hand.

Without any Instrument whatever?
Yes.

Then in point of fact this Statement of her having been "stripped and flogged on her naked Back like a Soldier, with aWhip having Eight or Ten Lashes" has not One Word of Truth in it?
So far as the Flogging is concerned it is not substantiated by the Facts.

Or as to her being stripped?
No.

But you say you have understood since that she was beaten with the Hand. In what Way was she beaten with the Hand?
She was beaten by her Mistress.

Was it a mere Blow, or a violent Beating; knocking down, and so forth?
I did not understand that it was a violent Beating.

What Age was she?
Fifteen or Sixteen.

What is her Name?
Jane Adams.

How have you ascertained that she has been beaten?
By the Person whom I sent for the Purpose of inquiring; Mr. Smales.

Of whom did he made those Inquiries?
Of herself.

Is she now in the Towcester Union Workhouse?
She is not.

Are you sure that is her Name?
That is the Name which is reported to me, and which she gave as her Name.

When did this supposed Beating occur?
I understand it to have occurred in 1836.

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Are you quite sure that there was ever any Pauper of the Name of Adams at all in the Towcester Workhouse in the Year 1836?
I am not quite certain of the Date of this Occurrence; whether 1836 or 1835.

When you received Information of this cruel Case from this Boy, did not you take the Trouble to inquire when it had happened?
It had happened under the Operation of the new Law, as he stated.

You were satisfied with his Statement that it had happened under the Operation of the new Law, but you did not inquire as to the Date?
I believe I did inquire as to the Date, but I have not the Date with me.

Have you, from any Information you have received since, Reason to suppose that there was any Person of the Name of Adams in the Towcester Workhouse in the Year 1836?
I have Reason to suppose that there was such a Person in the Workhouse either in 1835 or 1836; I cannot be certain of the Date; at all events since the Commencement of the new Poor Law; I cannot speak to the exact Date.

Can you speak to the Year?
I cannot exactly speak to the Year.

Was it 1835 or 1836?
I cannot state what Year it was.

Was it in either of those Years.
I cannot state what the Year was.

Have you never taken the Trouble to inquire in what Year this happened?
I did inquire as to the Time when it happened.

Are you sure that it was not in 1838?
It could not be in 1838, because I stated the Circumstance in 1837.

What Time in 1837 did you state it?
The latter End of January or the Beginning of February.
Was it in that Year?

I believe not; I believe in the former Year.

Were you not examined as to this Case in the House of Commons?
I was.

Did you not state that you could not give the Names or Dates, but that you would refer to your Papers, and be able to do so?
I have since that Time sent to the Committee of the House of Commons the Result of the Inquiries of the Person whom I sent into that Neighbourhood.

Did you not say that you would refer to your own Papers and Memoranda for the Purpose of refreshing your Memory with the Names and Dates?
I did.

Have you done so?
I have looked at all that I can lay my Hands upon.

And you are not able to state the Date?
I am not able to state the Year.

That is the Date, is it not?
Yes, that is Part of the Date.

Are you confident the Girl's Name was Adams?
I understood so from my Informant.

Did the Boy tell you so?
The Person whom I sent over to see her did.

Did you ever inquire as to the Character of this Girl in point of Cleanliness and Conduct?
I made no particular Inquiries with respect to that.

You do not know whether her Hair was in a filthy State, and required to be cut off, when she came into the House?
I do not.

Do not you think that it would have been as well if you had inquired?
The general Practice is to cut the Hair off close, whether it be cleanly or not.

But you do not know with respect to this Girl whether it was in a State to require cutting off or not?
The general Feeling among those who are subjected to that Operation is, that it is intended and it is received by them as a Mark of Degradation.

How do you know the general Feeling?
Because I have heard it expressed in several Instances.

By whom?
By different Persons who have mentioned the Circumstance to me.

Of the Towcester Union?
Not of the Towcester Union particularly, but of other Places; whenever poor Persons have mentioned the Subject to me they have always mentioned it to me as being a Degradation.

Supposing that you had mentioned the Name of this Woman to the Poor Law Commissioners, in consequence of their Letter to you, would not the Public Mind have been relieved from the Pain of having such a Case stated and being uncontradicted for so long a Time as it has been?
That might have been, but I had Objections to placing the Circumstances of the Case before the Poor Law Commissioners or the Guardians at all.

Are those the Circumstances which you have referred to in your previous Answer with respect to the Boy?
I mean the Circumstances of the whole Case.

What was there that should have prevented you from stating those Circumstances to the Poor Law Commissioners?
Because I think the Course of Inquiry which they would have adopted would not have been calculated to promote the Ends of Justice.

But if there was Truth in the Facts the Facts would have come out; but there happened to be no Truth in the Facts, and that being so, would not the Public Mind have been relieved at a much earlier Period?
Yes; but I knew not at the Time that any Part of the Facts could be questioned.

But would you not have put it in a Course of Inquiry if you had returned the Names and Places to the Poor Law Commissioners?
I should have put it into a Course of Inquiry by Persons whom I could not have trusted for a proper Investigation of the Case.

Had you ever tried them before, and had they refused to investigate a Case?
I had not, but I argued from the Character of that Power which is committed, and from the general Spirit and Tendency of the Act which they have to administer.

Supposing that they had pursued the Inquiry in a partial and unjust Manner, would it not still have been competent for you to show the Injustice of their Conclusions after they had so concluded the Inquiry?
It might have been competent to me to have done so, but I might have had neither Power nor Opportunity to have pursued the Inquiry, and in the meantime the Parties concerned might have been considerable Sufferers.

Would not you have had the same Opportunity that you now enjoy?
Certainly not; I have now the Opportunity of placing that Case before your Lordships Committee.

With the Information you had upon that Subject derived simply from the Boy who stated a Case of so much Cruelty and Oppression, do you think that a Person in your Station of Life ought to have stated that Case before an

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Assembly of 700 People, in a Town so excited as Bradford was upon the Subject of Poor Laws at that Time?

I certainly felt myself justified in making that Statement at that Time, or I should not have made it. I felt myself justified by the View which I took of the 93d Clause of the Act. I was aware at the Time that that Clause prohibits the Master of the Workhouse from punishing with corporal Punishment any "adult" Person in such Workhouse; and I was also aware that this young Person, whose Age was stated to me, was not in the Eye of the Law an "adult" Person, or would not properly be considered as such, and that therefore corporal Punishment might very probably have been inflicted upon her; and I also considered that I was justified in the Statement I made in consequence of the declared "rigorous" Character of the Law in question, declared to be so by those who proposed it; and if I had seen Reason since to alter my Opinion of the Law and of its Tendency I certainly should have made those Admissions; and I think it right to say, that as soon as I ascertained that one Part of the Statement was incorrect, I immediately made the Incorrectness public, through the same Channel by which it had been communicated to the Public,—"The Times" Newspaper.

Did you make it public by "The Times" Newspaper that that Part of the Statement concerning this Girl was incorrect?
I did.

Of what Date?
I have not the precise Date; it was during this Year.

Did you state it to the Committee of the House of Commons?
I did; I communicated to the Committee of the House of Commons that I had sent this Information to "The Times" Newspaper.

Did you state, in your Examination before the Committee of the House of Commons, that your Statement with respect to the Girl was incorrect?
I did not; but since I was examined before the Committee of the House of Commons I have ascertained the Statement to be incorrect so far as the Flogging is concerned, and have informed the Chairman of the House of Commons that I sent the Contradiction to "The Times" Newspaper.

Did it appear in "The Times" Newspaper?
It did.

You say that the Statement was incorrect so far as the Flogging is concerned; is there one single Circumstance which you say was stated by the Boy, and which you inserted in that Speech, with respect to this Girl, that is true; was she stripped?
It appears not.

Was she flogged on her naked Back like a Soldier?
It appears not.

Was she flogged with a Whip having Eight or Ten Lashes?
I have already stated that it appears not.

Then is there a Word of Truth in that Paragraph?
So far as that Circumstance is concerned there is not.

Are there any other Circumstances in that Paragraph?
There are no other Circumstances stated.

Is there a single Word of Truth in the Statement?
The Statement the Boy made to me of the Girl is not correct.

Is there a single Word of Truth in that Paragraph?
Not in that Paragraph which has been read.

Is there any other Paragraph with respect to that young Woman?
There is not; but allow me to add that the Statement that the Boy made to me appears to have been current in the Neighbourhood at the Time, and to have been generally believed.

Then the Boy did not pretend to know it of his own Knowledge?
No.

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And he mentioned it to you merely as a Report that was current in the Neighbourhood?

He mentioned it as a Statement that was universally believed in that Neighbourhood.

And you stated it at the Meeting upon the Authority of the Boy, the Boy having heard it as a current Report of the Neighbourhood?

It was universally believed in the Neighbourhood.

But the Boy did not know any thing about it?

The Boy did not say that he saw it done.

Did he tell you that that was the Fact, or that that was the Report in the Neighbourhood?

He told me that that was universally believed in the Neighbourhood.

But he did not know it of his own Knowledge?

He did not state that he did.

In point of fact you had not even the Boy's Authority for that Statement?

Not as knowing it of his own Knowledge.

Did not you expect, when you made this Statement of the Flogging of this young Woman, that it would cause great Excitement of the Feelings of the Multitude whom you addressed?

It caused great Excitement to my own Mind, and therefore I expected that it would cause Excitement to other Persons.

Did you mention it for the Purpose of creating a strong Feeling in favour of your Views against this new Poor Law?

I mentioned it in Elucidation and Confirmation of my Views.

Do not you think that you were called upon to enter a little more fully into this Case, and to satisfy your Mind as to the Truth of this Report which had been current with respect to this young Woman being flogged?

I do not. I conceive that the Authority which I had for it was sufficient, connecting it with analogous Cases of Hardship which had been suffered, and I stated to the Meeting that my Authority was the Boy. The Boy also gave his own Statement in his own Words, so that the Meeting had the same Opportunity of judging of the Nature of the Evidence that I had myself.

You have stated that the Boy did not know it of his own Authority?

The Boy gave the Statement to the Meeting in his own Words, and to the Effect I had already given.

That was after you had stated this?

After I had generally mentioned what he had to say.

You say that you thought yourself justified in making that Statement; do you now think you were justified in making that Statement?

I do think so.

You think you were justified in making that Statement to a large Meeting, knowing that it was incorrect?

I did not know at the Time, as is intimated in the Question, that the Statement was incorrect. I now believe the Statement to be incorrect; and I conceive that Statements are made in Parliament by Noble Lords upon the very same Sort of Information. I myself heard a Statement made by a Noble Lord in Parliament, respecting a Union Workhouse, and respecting Circumstances that occurred in that Workhouse, which I have since understood are not correct. I refer to the Dudley Union. I heard myself a Noble Lord in Parliament say, that the Inmates in that Workhouse had been ill in consequence of too much Food,—of Dyspepsia; which Statement I afterwards understood was contradicted. I conceive that the Noble Lord who made that Statement thought himself justified in making it in favour of the new Poor Law, and I conceived myself equally justified in making the Statement which I did, upon such Authority as I possessed, against the new Poor Law.

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Will you confine yourself to answering the Question? You now knowing that all that Statement was incorrect, do you think yourself justified in having made that Statement to a public Meeting at Bradford?

I think myself justified in having made it at the Time, but I should not feel myself justified in making it now, with the Knowledge I now possess.

Do you, knowing what you know now, feel yourself justified in having made that Statement without having got more accurate Information upon the Subject before you made it?

I do think that the general Severity of the Measure itself, and the general Effects produced, justified me in making the Statement at the Time I did.

You say that you heard a Noble Lord in Parliament state a Matter with respect to the Dudley Workhouse which turned out to be incorrect, and which has been contradicted?

I have seen a Letter in the Papers, I think from Mr. Fisher, a Surgeon of the Workhouse, in which he says, that so far from Dyspepsia having occurred there in consequence of over-feeding, he has found it necessary on all Occasions to increase rather than diminish the Diet, with a view to the Health of the Inmates.

Was that Statement to this Effect, that Mr. Fisher contradicted the Assertion that Dyspepsia had arisen in the Dudley Workhouse from over-feeding or not?

I understand so.

Do you mean the Statement made by Lord Radnor?

I do.

Was not the Statement that the Complaint had arisen from over-feeding in the London Union Workhouse; not in the Dudley Union Workhouse?

I understood Dudley, and I saw it so reported in the Papers.

Did not Mr. Fisher so understand it?

He did, or he would not have so written in reply.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Ordered That this Committee be adjourned till To-morrow, Twelve o'Clock.

Die Martis, 22° Maii 1838.

The Lord WHARNCLIFFE in the Chair.

Evidence on the Operation of the Poor Law Amendment Act.

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THE Reverend GEORGE STRINGER BULL is called in; and having requested that the last Question put Yesterday, and the Answer thereto, might be read, the same are read; and he then makes the following Statement:—

With your Lordships Permission I wish to state that the Paper in which I saw that was "The Times," which I have here, and an Extract from which I am willing to read to your Lordships if desired.

You were understood to say you heard it?
Yes, I heard it; and what I understood was confirmed by that which I read in the Report of "The Times." I was also questioned by your Lordships respecting Gilbert's Act in my former Examination; I wish to say, with reference to that Act, that the Intentions of its Author may perhaps be judged of by his own Opinion, expressed in a Pamphlet I have by me, which I am anxious to read.

The other Question to which you referred in your Speech at Bradford was respecting the Suicide of William Minto, "attributed by a Newcastle Paper to the Dread of being removed to Bedlington Union Workhouse. He had been a Month missing, and was found hanging on a Tree. The Coroner's Jury (said Mr. Bull) returned a Verdict of Temporary Insanity, which ought to have been Wilful Murder against the Oppressors of the Poor." Did you use those Expressions on that Occasion?
To that Effect; that is not a full Account of what I said, but merely the Substance.

You used that Expression, that the Verdict ought to have been Wilful Murder against the Oppressors of the Poor?
Assuming the Account to be correct.

Did you take that Account entirely from the Newcastle Paper?
Entirely from a Newcastle Paper, which I stated on that Occasion.

Did you give the Result in that Way when you made the Speech; assuming the Statement to be correct?
I did; I gave the Meeting the Account from the Paper, and stated, to the best of my Recollection, that if such were the Case I considered that they were morally guilty of Murder.

Why were they Oppressors of the Poor?
I spoke generally; I could not possibly tell who the Persons were particularly.

What Class of Persons do you call Oppressors of the Poor?
Any Persons who by harsh Measures drive the Poor to commit such Acts as were there alleged.

Who are those Persons; do you mean the Legislature who, by passing that Act of Parliament, oppress the Poor?
I mean that the Effect of that Act is to oppress the Poor.

Do you mean that the Three Estates of the Realm, who passed that Act of Parliament, are the Oppressors of the Poor?
I do not mean intentionally, but I think that the Act has that Effect.

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Then, if it was not intentional, how could it be wilful Murder in any one?

If any Person knowing that to be the Effect of an Act enforces it to the Destruction of the Poor, or to drive them to Self-destruction, I conceive that they are morally guilty of Murder.

Do you mean the Guardians, or the Overseers, or the Commissioners; whom you mean to designate by the Title of Oppressors of the Poor?

I mean any Persons who exercise such coercive Measures towards them.

Do you mean the Persons who carry into effect the Measures enacted by that Act of Parliament?

If an Act of Parliament is passed oppressive to the Poor, the Execution of which constitutes a moral Offence, I conceive that no Person is entitled to enforce that Act.

Is he guilty of Murder if he enforces it?

I conceive he is if it tends to Murder.

Therefore if the Board of Guardians under the Orders of the Commissioners, who are entitled to give such Orders by that Act of Parliament, refuse Relief to a Pauper, and he hangs himself, they are guilty of Murder; is that what you mean to say?

I do mean to say that; I mean to say in effect that whatever harsh and severe Regulations are pressed upon a Pauper leading or driving him to Self-destruction, the Persons so exercising those Regulations are morally guilty of Murder, in my Opinion.

And though by an Act of Parliament they are bound to do the Thing of which you complain?

Precisely.

That is, all Boards of Guardians, then?

That is, all Persons, whoever they be, who act as I have already described.

Have not the Poor Law Commissioners most extensive and indeed unlimited Powers?

They have; such as have been stated by a Noble Lord to be "unconstitutional." The Words of the Noble Lord are "but still it is said that they are unconstitutional." And again he says, "that many Bills which have unconstitutional Clauses have been passed."

You infer from that Fact that he thinks that Bill was unconstitutional?

Yes. And he also says, "I am perfectly aware that such Powers as these may be designated as unconstitutional."

Can it then be said that the Poor Law Commissioners, in any Laws, Orders, or Regulations they may adopt, act under the Direction of the Legislature?

Undoubtedly they do, so far as the Statute is concerned, to which reference is made.

Do they not act under the Authority of the Legislature, according to their own Discretion?

Undoubtedly they do.

The Legislature having, by that Act of Parliament, given them that Discretion?

The Legislature having, by that Act of Parliament, given them a Discretion which, it is held by the most eminent Authorities, the Legislature has not Power to delegate.

Parliament have always to determine what is consistent with the Constitution, and what is not?

It has been held by Lord Coke and Lord Chief Justice Hale that Acts of Parliament may be passed which are "utterly void."

Those are Exceptions to the general Rule, are they not?

They may be Exceptions.

Can you refer to any Passages showing that?

I have already referred to those Passages on your Lordships Minutes.

If

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If once your Notions of Persons not being obliged to obey the Laws enacted by the Houses of Parliament was admitted, in what Sort of State would Society be in this Country, in your Opinion?

In a State of entire Confusion.

Would not that Confusion arise from those who enacted unjust and illegal Laws, and not from those who legally oppose them?

I conceive so.

With respect to the Oppressors of the Poor, there is a Designation of the Persons you mean in a certain Letter of yours which was inserted in "The Times" Newspaper, which you state to be intended as a Sort of Answer to the Poor Law Commissioners to you. It is there stated? "But, Sir, if Mr. Chadwick's Question, 'Whom do you designate the Oppressors of the Poor,' is to be put in a more wide and general Sense, I can freely reply, without Condition and without Reserve, that I regard all who patronize and who administer this un-English Law in the Spirit of its Founders and Framers as Oppressors of the Poor." Those are the Persons whom you mean by the Oppressors of the Poor?

I can make no more definite Answer to your Lordships Question than the one which has already been made.

Is not that Answer that you have put down on Paper more definite?

I am not aware whether it is or not; I should perhaps more properly say that I can make no more correct Answer.

You adhere to that Answer?

I adhere to that Answer.

Do you think it becoming in you to call all those Persons who are acting under a Law passed by the Legislature by the Name of Oppressors of the Poor, and to hold out in any Case of Death, like that of William Minto, that those Persons were guilty of Murder?

I have qualified my Charge against the Administrators in the Passage just now quoted from my Letter so as not to include all Persons who administer that Law, because I believe that many Persons who administer that Law may be excited by benevolent, though I think very mistaken, Notions of what is good for the Poor; but, with regard to the latter Part of the Question, I would state to your Lordships, that Persons neglecting the Poor so as to drive them to Desperation, under a former Statute, have been held by very high Authority to be guilty of Murder.

That was because they did not act according the Statute, was it not?

Because they neglected the Poor, or because in any respect they treated them so as to drive them to Self-destruction.

That is, when they were acting contrary to the Statute, the Statute having provided Means of Relief and so forth, that they did not give to those Persons that Relief which they were entitled to?

If your Lordships will permit me, in answer to the Question which I am now referring to, I would state that in Palmer's Reports, Page 548, Hallaway's Case, recognized as good Law by Mr. Serjeant Russell on Crimes and Misdemeanors, (Volume I., Page 425,) Parish Officers neglecting a Child till it died, while they disputed about its Settlement, were held to be guilty of Murder. I would also refer to what Sir Michael Foster says, (Crown Law, Page 263 and 264,) where, distinguishing between Murder and Manslaughter, he lays Emphasis on the Circumstance of "the Heart being regardless of social Duty;" and I cannot help adding a Remark of Sir Henry Spelman, cited by Mr. Justice Blackstone, that "whilst every thing else had risen in its nominal Value, the Life of Man appeared to have grown continually cheaper."

Those Cases you have cited are Cases of Neglect of Duty on the Part of Overseers not putting the Law into execution?

Yes. The Distinction held by the Judge referred to, between Murder and Manslaughter, is made to rest upon the Fact being proved that "the Heart was regardless of social Duty."

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Supposing a Person is ordered by Law to do a certain Thing, and that he does that in an harsh and improper Way so as to produce Death or bodily Harm, is not that the Sort of Thing to which that Dictum of Sir Michael Foster refers?

I conceive that the Distinction drawn in the Case referred to may be applied to any Case wherever a Person undertakes to administer a Statute, or mal-administer a Statute, which interferes with the Exercise of "social Duty," and drives a Man to Desperation.

So that in the Case of any Statute, which you think is a hard Statute, if a Person acting under that Statute legally confines himself to his Duty without any Harshness or any improper Severity, you think the very acting under that Statute makes him guilty of that Offence?

I do.

You do not mean to say, that if a Man does an Act of Unkindness to another, and that operates so upon the State of his Nerves as to produce Death by Self-destruction, that not being contemplated by him at the Time he did the Act, he is a Murderer, either morally or in Law?

I should not say such a Case was necessarily a Case of Murder; but there might be Circumstances which would justify, even in such a Case as that, a Verdict of Murder, according to the Principles laid down.

Different Circumstances make a different Case. The Question refers to the Case put to you. Do you consider that in foro conscientiæ, or, in point of Law, a mere Act of Unkindness, though not intended to produce any fatal Effects, operating upon the Nerves of the Man to whom it is addressed, can be considered as Murder?

I should answer to that Question that it involves Distinctions which I can scarcely be expected, as one not expert in the Law, to reply to.

Supposing that the Legislature passes a Law which you consider as contrary to Christian Principles, and that a Discretion is given to Persons in the Administration of that Law, supposing that in their Exercise of that Discretion they act in a Manner so cruel or so oppressive as to produce Suicide on the Part of the Person against whom that Act is directed; is not that the Case in which you mean to say they may be considered as guilty of moral Murder?

I clearly entertain that View of the Case; and my Impression is, that no Law (or Statute, I should more properly say,) enacted against the Principles of Christianity ought to be either enforced or obeyed.

Do you mean to impute to them that they are guilty, morally, of Murder in any Way except under such a View of the Subject?

I certainly do not. I have made already, in one Answer to your Lordship, an Exception in respect of Persons who are not acting under the Influence already mentioned.

Should you have any Hesitation in saying that, if you were yourself so to act, you conceive you should deserve to be considered guilty, morally, of Murder?

I should not.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

The Witness is again called in.

You have made this Statement, in answer to a Question lately proposed: "My Impression is, that no Law (or Statute, I should more properly say,) enacted against the Principles of Christianity ought to be either enforced or obeyed." Who, in your Opinion, is to be the Judge whether such an Act of Parliament is against the Principles of Christianity or not?

With regard to Individuals, every Man must consult his own Conscience, and that Information and Rule which the Holy Scriptures afford him; and I would wish, in reference to those Questions which it has pleased your Lordships to put to me concerning the Charge of Murder, to say that I spoke on the

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the Occasion, not as a Lawyer, but as one who is accustomed to derive his Views of Morality from the Bible, and who has always understood that Christianity is Part and Parcel of the Law of this Land. If "he that hateth his Brother is a Murderer," which the Scriptures say he is, then he that puts forth any overt Act, bearing the Impression of "a Heart regardless of social Duty," to quote Words already mentioned, must undoubtedly be, in a moral Sense, as far as my Judgment goes, a Murderer also; and in reference to those Questions, so far as they concern the Immunity of Persons pleading a Statute in their Behalf, I might refer your Lordships to a similar Case which occurred in the Reign of Henry the Seventh, where he appointed Two Commissioners under a Statute, who went round the Country, committing very great Outrages upon the Liberty of the Subject. In the First Year of Henry the Eighth a Bill for removing and abolishing both the Names and Offices of all Commissaries and Promoters for ever was brought into the Commons, to which the Lords agreed; they ordered further that the Names of those Officers should be entered on the Parliament Roll, as a perpetual Memorial of their Infamy and Disgrace; and notwithstanding those Persons pleaded the Statute upon their Trial, there was an Act passed for the Purpose of confiscating their Estates; and in the Progress of Henry the Eighth through the Country he found that a moral Verdict of the whole Nation had been returned against those Men, and he sent a Writ for their Execution. I refer to Empson and Dudley.

You say you took the Circumstances of the Suicide of William Minto from a Newcastle Paper?
I did.

Did you ever take the Trouble of trying to see the Depositions that were taken upon that Occasion?
I did not.

Of course you supposed that the Jury that returned this Verdict of temporary Insanity were upon their Oaths, as they could return no Verdict otherwise?
Certainly.

What Right could you have to impugn the Verdict of the Jury?
I hold the Verdict of a Jury in as high Esteem as any Subject of this Realm, generally; but still the Verdict of a Jury cannot be held to be infallible, else why are frequently the Verdicts of Juries removed to other Courts for new Trials; besides, I conceive that in this Case the Jury might probably be Guardians, and might have a strong Bias in favour of their own System, or the Coroner might have overruled or withheld the Verdict which the Jury delivered, he perhaps being an Officer of the Union; and I am aware that such Cases have occurred.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

The Witness is again called in.

You never made Inquiry into any of the Circumstances; you took the whole Matter from the Report in the Paper, and because your View was different from that of the Jury you took upon yourself to say that their Verdict was wrong?
I did; and for the Reasons already stated. With reference to taking Reports from the Newspapers, I conceive that I am justified in doing so from the Practice of Noble Lords themselves in Parliament. I myself have heard Noble Lords reading Letters from some of my Friends which they have derived from Newspapers, and which had not been otherwise authenticated to them, and grounding upon the Language contained in those alleged Letters a strong Remonstrance to the Government, calling upon the Government indeed to institute criminal Proceedings against the Writers of those Letters; and if Noble Lords in Parliament feel justified in urging such Measures from Newspaper Reports, surely your Lordships cannot blame me for stating what I believe to be analogous to the general working of the Measure derived from similar Sources.

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In that Newspaper from which you took those Circumstances is the Evidence set forth at length?
No.

It is a mere Statement made of the Circumstances of the Case by the Editor of the Newspaper?
Certainly; but still that Statement having as good an Authority as the Letters to which I have referred.

How do you know that?
I judge so.

Do you take the Statements in all Cases in a Newspaper to be as good as the Evidence given on an Inquest?
I do not take the Statements in a Newspaper to be as good and as authentic as Evidence.

How could you judge of the Propriety of a Verdict merely upon that Statement in a Newspaper, not knowing the Evidence which was before the Jury at the Time the Verdict was given?
I did not judge distinctly and definitively, but merely conditionally.

This Paragraph was stated by you at a Meeting at Bradford?
The Substance of it, not the precise Words; that is not all which I said.

Do you not conceive that the Verdict given by the Jury of "Temporary Insanity" may have been correct, and yet that such Insanity may have been produced by Destitution and Despair under the Operation of the new Poor Law?
I certainly do; and I have already stated to your Lordships that I could mention a Case, which I think just as deserving of your Lordships Attention, in which the Verdict of a Jury under those Circumstances was repressed by the Coroner; he would not receive the Verdict of the Jury. That Case I have investigated.

Where was the Inquest in that Case where the Coroner would not receive the Verdict?
It was held at a Place called Eversholt, near Woburn, Bedfordshire.

What is the Coroner's Name?
Reddall.

How came it you stated this Case which you had not investigated, and kept back another Case which you had investigated?
I have since investigated this Case; I had not then traced its Locality.

Are you of opinion that premature Death, and especially Suicide, are likely to occur under the Operation of the new Poor Law?
I am, decidedly.

What are your Reasons for that Opinion?
The numerous Accounts which I see of such Cases having occurred.

Do you believe the Accounts of all the Cases you see in the Newspaper?
I do not; but if I see an Account in the Newspaper which appears to have strong Circumstances of Truth I believe that Account, if it be analogous to the general working of the System now in operation.

If you saw an Account in the Newspaper of the good working of this Poor Law, probably you would not give it the same Credit?
I have never seen an Account of the good working of it yet.

There was a very considerable Riot took place at Bradford upon the Subject of the Poor Law, was not there?
There was.

At what Time was that?
I have not the Date.

About what Time?
About September last.

When

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When was it you made this Speech?
In the End of January 1837, or the Beginning of February.

That was several Months before this Riot took place?
It was; and during the Interval, with the Exception of attending a Meeting held in Bradford in March, at which Two of our Magistrates attended, I made no active Interference, either by Speeches or by Publications, in reference to the Poor Law at all, between that Time and the Time of the Riot to which your Lordship refers.

Upon the Occasion of that Riot the Military were called in?
They were.

An Attack was made on the Guardians in the Court House?
I was not present at the Place. I can say nothing of my own Knowledge upon the Subject.

There was a good deal of Damage done?
There was. That I saw afterwards.

Some Persons were wounded?
Yes.

Were any Lives lost?
Not that I heard.

How long did that Riot last?
I cannot say precisely. There was a Disturbance during the Day, from Noon until the Close of the Day, as I understood; but I was not present to witness it.

The Object of the Rioters was to prevent the Poor Law being put into operation in Bradford?
So it appeared.

Was the Poor Law put into operation there?
It is now being put into operation.

Had it been put into operation previously to your making this Speech?
A Board of Guardians was formed, and Measures were taking at the Time to introduce it.

There was a strong Opposition to it on the Part of a considerable Number of Persons in Bradford?
There was; and not Persons merely of the Working Classes but Persons of every Station.

There was another Speech of yours on the 16th of December 1837; that is not the same, is it?
No; not on the 16th of December 1837.

Did you make no Speech on that Day?
No; I believe not.

Did you make no Speech about the Case of Mary and John Howes at Nottingham at any Meeting?
Yes. I beg your Lordships Pardon. I did not at the Moment remember that that was the Date of the Meeting referred to.

Where was that Meeting held?
At Bradford.

Was that a Meeting in the Schoolhouse?
No; it was at a large Hall newly erected.

Was there a large Number of People there?
The Place was full.

What Number of Persons do you imagine were there?
I should imagine nearly 2,000.

That was about Three Months after the Riot which has been alluded to?
It was at the Time when there were Military in the Town. It was after the Riot.

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The Military, who had been brought in in consequence of the Riot, had not been removed?

They were still remaining.

With respect to the Case of Mary and John Howes; you said, that you "must say that it was not in Human Power, after a Couple had been joined together, to separate them; that the Poor Law Commissioners, however, attempted this. He would give them an Illustration of the Fact, by reading to them the Case of Mary and John Howes, who had recently come to Bradford from Nottingham. The Reverend Gentleman then read the following Statement: 'The Case of Mary Howes of Nottingham. Bradford, 13th December 1837. —My Husband's Name is John Howes. We were both born and brought up in Nottingham. He is by Trade a Smith. We have Five Children; we had Seven, Two are dead. Whilst he had Work we had a very comfortable Home. My Husband never was a drunken Man; he was a kind Husband, and a good Father; he regularly attended the Calvinist Chapel, Pilcher Gate, Nottingham. Two Years last October he fell out of Work from the Slackness of Trade. He tried to get any Sort of Work, and for a Time served the Bricklayers; and in that Work he fell and injured himself considerably. At last, being able to get no Work of any Sort, we sold all we had for Food, and then applied for Relief to the head Overseer (Barnett), upon which we were offered Relief in the Nottingham Union Workhouse. We stayed out a Week almost without Food, and at last we went in. It is a very large Building. We had nothing but what we stood up in. We went in at the Gate, and into the Yard; there we met Mr. Barnett at the Office to have our Names and Ages set down.'"?

That is the Report before the Committee of the House of Commons; it is correct. I have read that Account.

You read it as if it had been taken down from the Persons Mouths by yourself?

It was so taken down by myself, and witnessed by the Schoolmistress in whose Presence I received her Statement.

Did you ask them the Date at which they were in this Workhouse?

It is there stated.

Do you fix the Date by the Month's Residence and the Interval of Two other Months when they were not in the Workhouse, and then their being in the Workhouse again?

I can best answer that Question, by referring your Lordships to a Letter which I addressed to the Chairman of the Committee of the House of Commons on the Poor Laws since I was examined, which your Lordships will find in the Appendix to the Twenty-second Report. "I have no further Observations to make at present upon the Nottingham Case, except that referring to the Expression used by Mary Howes 'Two Years last October;' I did not understand her to state that this was the Date of their going into the Workhouse, but only of the Beginning of their Troubles, that Event appearing to have taken place some Time after October 1835."

The Beginning of her Troubles appears by that to be on going into the Union Workhouse?

The Beginning of her Troubles was when her Husband fell out of Employment.

When did she go in?

That I believe was not particularly stated.

Did not it occur to you to ask the Date of her going in?

The Account I took down was so taken at a Time when I had a great Pressure of Business, and I overlooked asking that Date.

Have you ascertained since the Time of her going in?

I have not.

Did you ever take the pains of inquiring that?

I have made Inquiry at Nottingham, and the Result of my Inquiry still is, after all which has been twice stated in contradiction by Mr. Barnett, the Master

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Master of the Union Workhouse, and the Master of the Workhouse before it became the Union Workhouse, that there is substantial Truth in the Statement given by Mary Howes.

Have you ascertained the Date of her going into the Workhouse?
I have not ascertained the Date of her going into the Workhouse.

Can you say that she was in the new Union Workhouse under the Direction of the Board of Guardians or not?
I cannot; but whether it occurred under the new System of the Union Workhouse or under the old System, I conceive is immaterial to the Question, for the same Regulations almost precisely are now adopted under the new that were adopted under the old System in Nottingham.

You produce this as a Case of Cruelty under the new Poor Law?
I believe that a Part of that occurred under the new Law.

Do you or not produce this as a Case of Cruelty under the new Law?
I do.

Then if it was a Case under the new Poor Law, the new Poor Law must have been in existence when she was in the Workhouse?
I believe it was.

Was it so when she went into the Workhouse?
That I have not ascertained.

When did the new Poor Law come into operation so as to affect this Case?
It appears from the Date of the Formation of the Union, which I cannot just now refer to, that if that Statement be correct a Part of it must have occurred under the new Poor Law.

That is still your Opinion?
It is.

The Governors of this Workhouse, both before and after the Union, however deny the Fact?
Mr. Barnett denies the Fact.

Mr. Barnett is the present Governor of the Workhouse?
Yes.

And has been such ever since it was placed under the Direction of a Board of Guardians?
Yes.

He denies that such a Person has been in the Workhouse?
Yes; but I still believe that she was in the Workhouse.

What induces you, in spite of Mr. Barnett saying so, to believe that she was in the Workhouse?
I am induced to think so, because Mr. Barnett stated to a Friend of mine at Nottingham, "that he had some Idea who the Person was." I quote the Words of a Letter received from a highly respectable Person at Nottingham to that Effect, who says that Mr. Barnett, the Master of the Workhouse under both the old and the new Law, said "that he had an Idea as to who she was, and alluded to several Traits of her Character, which corresponded with those of Mr. Oastler's private written Narrative, as shown to me some Time ago in Nottingham."

Is that any Admission that this Pauper was in the Workhouse?
It is a sufficient Reason to my Mind for refusing to accede to the Belief of the Truth of the Denial of Mr. Barnett.

Have you endeavoured to see the Books to ascertain whether this Woman was there?
I conceive that the Books may bear no such Name, and yet that the Person may have been there.

Have you seen the Books?
I have not seen the Books.

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You do not know whether, in point of fact, the Person's Name is there or not?
I do not; I have understood that no such Name is there.

Do you mean to say that the Books are falsified for the Purpose of concealing the Entrance of this Person into the Workhouse?
It is possible the Person may not have given her proper Name.

Does not it happen that a Person often goes by another Name?
It does.

This was a Man and his Wife residing in Nottingham?
Yes; they stated themselves to have done so; but that Persons do sometimes go under different Names is manifest from many Indictments I have seen as preferred in Courts of Law.

Could they go in there except by their real Names, in the Union in which they lived, by which it is ascertained that they are Paupers of such a Parish?
Certainly they could not; but a Person in destitution, like the Person referred to, might have certain Impressions and Reasons which would induce her to give a feigned Name.

How would she show herself to be an Inhabitant of that Parish supposing she gave a different Name?
She could not go into the Workhouse under a feigned Name, but she might travel into Yorkshire under a feigned Name.

You imagine that she changed her Name after she left the Workhouse?
I apprehend that to be possible and probable.

If she had changed her Name would not she have told you, as Part of her Narrative, that she had changed her Name in order that you might trace her?
She probably had Reasons in her own Mind for not giving her real Name.

Have you ever since asked her whether that was her real Name?
I have not seen her since.

Did you take the Trouble to ask her either then or since?
She was going on to Leeds to join her Husband, and I desired Inquiries to be made for her there, but without Success. She was passing through Bradford to Leeds.

How came she to be passing through Bradford to Leeds?
They were going in search of Employment; that was her Statement.

How came you to be directed to her upon that Occasion?
She was sent to me by Mr. Oastler, who was coming to Bradford, and who met with her on the Road, and who was so struck with the intimate Knowledge she had of Nottingham and its Localities, and of different Individuals resident there, with whom he was personally well acquainted (he being well acquainted with Nottingham and many Persons there), that he felt assured from the Detail by her of those Circumstances that her Statement must be true, and he sent her to me with a Note requesting me to take down her Statement.

Was she begging upon the Road, or what was she doing when he met her?
She was travelling to Leeds.

How came Mr. Oastler to engage in Conversation with her?
I understood that in coming to Bradford in his Gig he observed this Woman, who seemed to be very weary, on the Road, and appearing to be a respectable Person he offered to take her up in his Gig; it was then that Conversation took place which induced him to write to me; and I think that Mr. Oastler would be able to justify having done so to this Committee.

The only Circumstance that made Mr. Oastler or yourself believe this Woman was her having stated that she was acquainted with certain Individuals in Nottingham whom you knew to be respectable Persons?
Yes; not only with respectable Persons in Nottingham, but with the History of

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of the Nottingham Union Workhouse, and with the Particulars that passed therein. Among others, she stated to Mr. Oastler, which is not contained in that Account to which your Lordship has referred, that on one Occasion the Workhouse Doors were once bolted inside from an Apprehension of the Intention on the Part of the Poor to attack and destroy the Building, which I ascertained was the Fact.

Ha l you ascertained it at that Time?
I have subsequently ascertained it; but Mr. Oastler, I understood, knew it previously.

You believe that she was in this Workhouse Part of the Time she mentioned under the new Poor Law?
I do believe it.

Was she equally separated from her Husband and her Children when she first went into the Workhouse?
I understood so; in fact the Transition from the old System to the new in Nottingham was merely nominal; as far as I have been informed, the Nottingham System of Management was almost if not quite as rigorous as the present System under the new Law.

That Separation having taken place when she went in under the old Law, why do you attribute all those Severities to the new Poor Law?
I was not aware, at the Time that she gave me this Statement, that the Nottingham System had been such, and so severe as it was under the old Poor Law.

If it was so severe under the old Poor Law, do you apprehend they were acting contrary to the Law in the old Workhouse?
I imagine they were acting contrary to Justice, to Reason, and to Christianity.

Have you discovered any thing in those Regulations contrary to Law?
Perhaps not; they may be all quite agreeable to the Law, that is, agreeable to the Statute; but that does not, to my Mind, constitute a Reason why I should not express my Disapprobation of the Statute, which may be contrary to the Principles of Common Law and of Christianity.

Whether they are contrary to the Principles of Christianity or not, the greater Part of her Sufferings in this Workhouse at Nottingham was actually under the Operation of the old Poor Law, and not the new?
I am not aware what Proportion, but it appears that a Proportion of them were so.

You have only a Suspicion that some of them had been under the new?
I have an equal Reason to believe that a Part of them occurred under the new as I have to believe that a Part occurred under the old.

That is to say, if she ever was in that Workhouse at all?
Yes; which I believe to be the Fact.

What Sort of Appearance had this Woman?
Her Appearance was that of a Person who had been respectably brought up; her Language and Behaviour were strikingly correct, proper, and modest.

Did she appear to be in Distress?
She did.

How was she clothed?
In that Way that I should expect a Person to be clothed who had been respectable in her Habits and Manners; she was very meanly clothed.

Were her Clothes bad and worn out?
They were.

Were they clean?
They appeared to be clean.

Did you ever see her Husband?
I did not.

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You do not know that she had a Husband, except from her Statement?
No.

You do not know any thing of the Case but from her Statement?
No; but that it is the Conviction of many respectable Persons in Nottingham that such a Case did occur.

What is the Conviction of the People of Nottingham as to what her Case was?
The Conviction of my Friends at Nottingham, of whom I have inquired upon the Subject, is that her Case bears a very strong Character of Probability as to its main Facts; that there may have been some Exaggerations in her Statement, but that substantially such a Case did occur in Nottingham Union Workhouse.

Did you ever make Inquiry respecting the Wives of John Bulliphant and William Straw, at Nottingham?
Every Inquiry which it was in the Power of Mr. Oastler or myself to make was made, without being able at present to produce the Parties referred to.

Had you ever asked respecting John Bulliphant and William Straw, Twist Hands living in Nottingham?
Yes; and respecting all the Persons mentioned in that Account.

Have you ever been able to find those Persons?
No; those Persons have not been found.

Then, if those Persons are not to be found, why do you believe the Story of this Woman?
I may still believe that the Case may have occurred with regard to the Chief of the Facts which are alleged. I believe that those Parties have been resident at Nottingham; that there are some Exaggerations in the Account she gave me, but I have that Conviction upon my Mind of the Probability of the Case which induces me to withhold my Consent from the Proposition that it is altogether an Imposition.

You say you suppose she must have given you a wrong Name?
I think it is highly probable.

Do you suppose she gave you a wrong Name with respect to Bulliphant and Straw?
It is probable she is not correct in the Names.

But they are given by her for the very Purpose of showing the Truth of her Story?
They are; but it is also possible those Persons may have left Nottingham, for of late Years the Population in Nottingham has been a very fluctuating Population in consequence of the Uncertainty of Trade.

Did you ever inquire after Mr. Samuel Fox the Quaker?
Yes; Mr. Samuel Fox denies the Statement as well as Mr. Barnett.

Was he Guardian under the new Poor Law, or was there an Incorporation in Nottingham before?
I understood him to have been Guardian under the new Law, and to have had considerable Management under the old one; but I cannot reconcile the mere Denial of Mr. Barnett, not only as affecting the Person calling herself Mary Howes, but also as affecting any such Person of any such Character, or any such Children having been in the Workhouse,—I cannot reconcile his Denial with his Statement that "he has an Idea who the Person is."

You have that stated only at Second-hand at the most?
I have it written here before me.

You did not hear him make that Statement?
I did not. If I had reason to think that the Statement was a Fabrication, I would most unaffectedly declare my Conviction that it was; but so long as I have these Things before me I cannot do so. The exact Words are these: "He said that he had an Idea as to who she was, and alluded to several Traits of her Character which corresponded with those of Mr. Oastler's private unpublished Narrative, as shown to me some Time ago."

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From whom is that Letter?
It is from the Master of the Grammar School at Nottingham?

What is his Name?
The Rev. William Butler.

Taking that Statement to be true, how is that a Proof, in point of fact, that she was in the Workhouse at all; is it not possible that he may have referred to a Knowledge of this Woman and her Circumstances, and so forth, without her ever having been in the Workhouse?
It is possible; but it is a Circumstance which withholds me altogether from expressing my Disbelief in the Facts.

You have no further Facts to produce in corroboration of this Woman's Story?
I have not.

And you have not been able to make out her Two Sisters, of the Names of Bulliphant and Straw, the Wives of Twist Hands living at Nottingham?
I have not been able to make them out.

You have been able to make out Mr. Samuel Fox, the only other Person she mentions besides Mr. Barnett, and he totally denies her Account of the Transaction?
He does.

Therefore the whole on which you rest your Confidence in the Statement is that which as you say has been reported to you as having fallen from Mr. Barnett?
No; not entirely so, but from the intimate Knowledge which she evidently possessed of the Transactions and Circumstances occurring in the Union Workhouse.

Did you ever inquire at the Calvinist Chapel, in Pilcher Gate, Nottingham, respecting her?
I requested such Inquiries to be made, and I have Reason to believe they were made; I did not understand that any thing was made out.

Did you inquire at the Zion Chapel Sunday School respecting her?
I sent the whole Account to my Friend there, and requested him to cause Inquiries to be made.

Has he been able to make out any thing from those Inquiries?
I do not understand that he has.

Could those Inquiries have led to any satisfactory Result if Mary Howes had while she resided at Nottingham a different Name?
Very probably not; the Population of Nottingham also being so exceedingly fluctuating would interpose a very considerable Bar to the obtaining the Truth of those Circumstances.

Those Inquiries were made for a Person bearing the Name of Mary Howes?
They were; and also a Person similarly situated as she stated herself to be.

Are you sure that, in point of fact, this Woman, Mary Howes, was not in the House by her proper Name of Mary Howes, with her Children, before the new Poor Law passed?
I cannot be sure of that.

And that all those Circumstances she related did not take place under the old Poor Law?
I cannot be sure upon the Subject.

If you made that Case a Ground of Charge against the new Poor Law, do not you think it was your Duty to ascertain how far that you stated was the Truth or not?
I did not think it necessary to ascertain that previous to stating the Case, because it is a Case so likely to occur under the new Poor Law, so analogous to the oppressive and arbitrary Regulations of the Commissioners, that I can conceive any thing that is monstrous and horrible to occur under the new Poor Law.

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Therefore you think yourself justified in stating at a public Meeting as a Fact any thing which you think monstrous and horrible?
I think myself entitled to state any thing which comes to me with such Evidences of Truth as commend themselves to my Mind.

You think yourself justified in stating those as Facts?
Yes; when I give to those Persons to whom I make those Statements the Grounds upon which I make them, and the Authority from which I make my Deductions.

What is the latest Period at which she was found in the Nottingham Workhouse, according to her Statement?
The particular Time of her leaving is not stated.

Did she tell you how long she had been out of the Workhouse at the Time you saw her?
The Statement is, that it was Six Months ago when her Husband set off to get Work at Manchester, and Two Months after that she left, which would make it Four Months.

Did you understand where she had been during that Four Months?
She said she took all her Children out who were then living; and I understood her to remain at Nottingham a considerable Time.

Down to what Time would you bring it that she was at the Nottingham Workhouse?
About Four Months previous to the Time of her giving me this Account.

What Time was that?
13th December 1837.

Do you believe that the new Poor Law System had been at that Time introduced into the Nottingham Workhouse?
I understood that it had.

Have you any Doubt about that?
I believe that is not questioned.

Did you learn where she had passed those Four Months?
Partly in Nottingham, and partly on her Journey from Nottingham to the Place where I met with her.

How much of that Time was employed in the Journey?
I did not exactly ascertain.

Did you ascertain where the Four Children were?
They were left behind at Nottingham.

Under whose Care?
Her Statement was:—"I have Two Sisters at Nottingham; their Husbands are Twist Hands. Two of my Children have a little Work, and get from Two to Three Shillings a Week, and my Relatives make out for the rest." By which I understand that they were left with their Relatives at Nottingham.

You refer to that for Accuracy; that was the Evidence you gave vivâ voce in the House of Commons?
The Statement there given was the written Statement taken down from the Woman.

Did you ask her what other Name she went by?
I did not at all assume that she had another Name, or suspect it.

Did you return any Answer to the Letter you received from the Poor Law Commissioners?
I did not return any Answer to the Commissioners.

Why not?
Because I altogether protest against the Constitution of that Commission.

Do you not know that there are a large Number of People, equally sincere and conscientious Individuals as you yourself, who protest against the Constitution of the Established Church in this Country?
I am aware that there are.

Supposing that one of those Persons had published a false and scandalous Libel with respect to yourself, and had declined to give you any Information with respect to his Authority, upon the Score that you were a Minister of the Established Church, should you not consider that to be an Evasion?
It would not necessarily be an Evasion; he might have a conscientious Objection against holding any Communication with me.

Did not the Commissioners state to you in their Letter that the Ends of Justice would not be attained without receiving Answers to the Questions they put to you?
They did.

Was it not your Wish that Justice should be obtained in those Cases?
Undoubtedly; but I did not think the Ends of Justice could be obtained by a Tribunal or by a Commission so constituted as they are, nor by Means of the Boards of Guardians.

Did you take any other Means to obtain Justice in those Cases?
I did not.

Are you not aware that the Poor Law Amendment Act has been based upon the Report of Commissioners of Inquiry?
I am aware of that.

And that among those Commissioners were Two Prelates?
I am aware of that.

And that those Commissioners recommended a much stricter Measure than Parliament thought fit to sanction?
I am informed so by a Speech of a Noble Lord in Parliament.

Have you any Doubt of that?
Not the least.

Did you never see their Report?
I have read Part of their Reports, but they were too voluminous for me to read; and, indeed, I rose from the Perusal of many Parts of those Reports with so much Dislike, I may use the Term Disgust, at the Manner in which it appeared to me the Poor of this Country had been libelled, that I felt no Disposition to pursue the Perusal of that Inquiry.

Do you know who those Prelates were?
I have understood that the Lord Bishop of London and the Lord Bishop of Chester were the Two Prelates who affixed their Signatures to that Report; but I can easily conceive that those Right Reverend Prelates might be very much indeed mistaken with respect to the View which was pressed upon them. I can also conceive it highly probable that the onerous Duties which they had to perform in their vast Dioceses would preclude them from the Possibility of giving that Attention to the Subject which would enable them to come to the most accurate Conclusion.

Do you know that each of those Prelates is the Author of Theological Works?
Certainly they are.

Do you consider them to be unfaithful or unscriptural Expositors of the Gospel?
I have no Reason to think so.

Do you think they would be likely to fall into the Error you have supposed them to be guilty of,—of recommending an unchristian Act of Parliament?
Having the highest possible Respect for both those Right Reverend Prelates, I can only state that they, like all other Men, are fallible, and might give their Sanction to a Measure of this Kind from the best Motives, which Sanction they might hereafter be disposed to withdraw; and which, for the Honour

Rev. G. S. Bull.

and for the Safety of the Established Church of this Country, I do most devoutly hope their Lordships may yet, upon fuller Consideration, be induced to withdraw.

Have you ever heard that they repent the Share they took in that Commission?

I have not so heard; but my earnest Desire is that their Lordships may be led to an entirely opposite Conclusion, and to record eventually their Protest against the Measure, which I must think unfortunately they have been led to sanction.

Do you not think their Judgment, in a Matter of that Kind, is likely to be thought by the Members of the Established Church as good as your own?

Undoubtedly, their Judgment ought to be more highly esteemed than mine; but, with the highest Veneration for those Right Reverend Prelates, I cannot allow their Judgment to overrule my conscientious Convictions.

Has not their Judgment been affirmed to a great Extent by Members of the Established Church taking a very active and useful Part as Guardians under that Law?

I know that many Members of the Established Church have taken a Part as Guardians, but I cannot admit that it is a "useful" Part. I also know that very many of my Clerical Brethren have taken a contrary Part, and I have reason to believe that many of them would have taken the Part I have in opposing it but that they did not feel themselves sufficiently nerved to face the Opposition which must necessarily be encountered from taking such a Part, or to stand, as I now have had to stand, for several Days before so august a Body as your Lordships, and to be questioned so rigorously as I have been.

There would be also an Indisposition to placing themselves in active Hostility to their Diocesans, would there not?

Probably there would with reference to those Clergy that are in the Dioceses referred to, but it is not a singular Thing for the Clergy in some Cases to differ with their Diocesans; but those Cases generally are such as do not bring them necessarily into contact with a Body of Persons armed with such extensive Powers of Annoyance (if they choose to use them for that Purpose) as the Poor Law Commissioners.

Are you a Curate or an Incumbent?

I am the Perpetual Curate of Byerley in the Diocese of Ripon.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

R. N. Shawe, Esq.

ROBERT NEWTON SHAWE Esquire is called in, and examined as follows:

WHAT are you?

I am the Chairman of the Woodbridge Board of Guardians, and a Magistrate for the County of Suffolk.

Do you know a Widow of the Name of Booth?

Yes.

Where does she live?

She is living now at Woodbridge.

What aged Woman is she?

She is Forty-seven, I think.

Do you know her Christian Name?

Sophia.

Has she any Children?

She has Seven.

Are they all living with her?

At present Two of them are out of the Workhouse, and the Five younger ones are in the Workhouse.

What

R. N. Shawe, Esq.

What are the Two out of the Workhouse doing for themselves?
The Mother and One Daughter were at work on Saturday peeling Rods.

What Age is the eldest?
Sixteen or Seventeen. I have merely a Return of their Ages when they went into Lancashire.

Did the whole Family go into Lancashire?
Yes.

How long did they remain there?
A Year or thereabouts.

How were they employed in Lancashire?
In the Manufactories.

Whereabouts?
With a Mr. Thomas Clegg of Heap, or Haywood, near Manchester.

When did she return from Lancashire?
She returned on or about the 28th of October.

How came she to return?
She was brought home by Orders of Removal. If your Lordships will allow me, I will state the whole Case. She is the Widow of John Booth of Woodbridge.

Was he a Labourer?
He was what they call a Bricklayer's Labourer; he assisted a Bricklayer: he died in August 1835. The Woodbridge Union was formed in October 1835. After its Formation the Board proceeded to examine the Paupers in the different Parishes. The Woodbridge Paupers were not examined till the 21st of December, or rather Sophia Booth was not examined till that Day; consequently Woodbridge Parish did not come under the Operation of the new Law till the 21st of December. On that Day Sophia Booth, we found, had been relieved by the Parish, having Seven Children, with 2*s.* 6*d.* a Week and Three Stone of Flour.

What is the Value of a Stone of Flour?
It was then only 1*s.* 3*d.*; that would make 6*s.* 9*d.*; that was the Relief given to her by the Parish Officers of Woodbridge. We went into an Examination of her Case, and found that Three of her Children were represented as capable of earning their own Livelihood. We gave the Widow Booth precisely the same which she had under the old Administration of the Law, she being perfectly satisfied with that Allowance; the same Allowance was continued to her up to the Month of January 1836. She was relieved with 2*s.* 6*d.* and Three Stone of Flour again for the first Seven Weeks of the Quarter, beginning in January 1836; for the next Three Weeks she was relieved with 3*s.* 6*d.* and Three Stone of Flour; (I do not know why that Sum was given, but I find it so standing in the Books;) and for the remaining Three Weeks of the Quarter she was relieved with 2*s.* 6*d.* a Week, the original Allowance, and the same Quantity of Flour. In the following Quarter, from April, I find she had the same Allowance still, 2*s.* 6*d.* and the Three Stone of Flour, for Three Weeks; that is so far as came under my own immediate Observation. The remaining Part of the Allowance, up to July, I take also from the Books of the Union; there are some Variations in it, and I will state them exactly as I took them from the Book. In the Fourth Week of the Second Quarter, from April to July, she was allowed 1*s.* and Three Stone of Flour; the next Week she was allowed 1*s.* 6*d.* and Three Stone of Flour.

Did all her Children continue with her all this Time?
Her Children were with her.

Were they all in Employment?
I believe so. I do not know that Fact, nor do I know the Reasons of the Variations in this Allowance; but I have understood from the Board of Guardians that it was in consequence of her larger Earnings.

Do you know the Ages of her Children?
Yes. They were, at that Time, Elizabeth, Seventeen; Susan, Fifteen;

R. N. Shawe, Esq. Catherine, Thirteen; James, Ten; William, Nine; Daniel, Six; Sarah, Four. The Three following Weeks she was relieved only with Three Stone of Flour.

Nothing in Money?

No.

That was the Quarter to July?

Between April and July; the Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Weeks. Her Allowance was the following Week increased to 2*s.* 6*d.* and Three Stone of Flour again; the Week following that it was reduced to 1*s.* and Three Stone of Flour, the Week after that 2*s.* and Three Stone of Flour, and the Week after that 2*s.* 6*d.* and Three Stone of Flour again. In the next Quarter, that is from July to October, she received for the first Three Weeks 1*s.* 6*d.* and Three Stone of Flour; at that Time the Board of Guardians entered into a Consideration of her Case, and they determined to relieve her only by means of the House, it appearing that she had given an incorrect Account of her Earnings; it was proved that she and her Family were earning from 11*s.* to 13*s.* at one Time, and from 6*s.* to 8*s.* at another, when she had given a different Account; an Order was then given her for the House. I mention this on account of a Statement which was published in the Paper.

In what Paper?

In the Suffolk Chronicle. Reports were also made that her younger Children were going about the Town of Woodbridge as Beggars, and that the elder Children, who were arrived at the Age of Puberty, were conducting themselves in a very discreditable Manner. She did not accept the Offer of the House, and she remained maintaining herself by her own Labour. It was the latter End of July, when the Harvest was coming on, and from one Source or another she did maintain herself up to the 1st of October. In the Statement which I find in the Suffolk Paper she says she was compelled to go into the House because she refused to go into Lancashire; but I believe the incorrect Statement of her Earnings and the reported Conduct of her Family were the main Grounds of withholding Out-relief. She accepted an Offer of going into Lancashire; accordingly a Contract with Mr. Thomas Clegg was obtained for her; when the Contract came she refused to go. We have had several other Cases of the Sort, where we have not put the Family into the House. However, in October, she said she wished to go into Lancashire; an Agreement was made with Mr. Thomas Clegg, and she eventually went. I can answer for it, for I had it from herself, that both herself and all her Family were well clothed and were put into excellent Order; the Family conveyed down to Heywood in Lancashire to Mr. Thomas Clegg.

At whose Expense were they conveyed?

At the Expense of the Parish. She herself states she has not any Complaint to make of those Arrangements. About the 20th of May 1837 I read the following Statement in the Suffolk Chronicle (the Widow Booth was then in Lancashire):—"The Case of Sophia Booth, Woodbridge, Suffolk; now residing at Heywood, in the County of Lancaster. What Relief did you receive from your Parish? Half a Crown in Money, and Three Stone of Flour, for Four Months.—What Family had you at that Period? Seven Children; viz. Elizabeth Booth, aged Eighteen Years; Susan, Sixteen; Caroline, Fifteen; James, Twelve; William, Ten; Donald, Eight; Sarah, Five.—After the first Four Months what did you receive? Through a Mistake of 4*d.* I was deprived of 2*s.* 6*d.*, and only received Three Stone of Flour per Week for my Seven Children during a Period of One Month. I told the Relieving Officer that I could not subsist upon the Flour alone, and that I had an Order to receive 1*s.* 6*d.* per Week besides. He would not give it to me; and said, that if I could not do without it I must provide myself elsewhere. I then thought proper to apply to the Churchwarden; he gave me 1*s.* 6*d.* out of his own Pocket. On the Thursday following I received the 2*s.* 6*d.* again, which was regularly paid me for One Month. ——— then brought me a Letter, and stated, that if my Children would go down to Lancashire, they would be able to earn—my eldest Daughter, 6*s.* 8*d.*; Susan, 5*s.* 6*d.*; Caroline, 4*s.* 6*d.*; and John, 3*s.* 6*d.* I told him I would not go. He then answered in a haughty Manner, and said, 'Then you shall have no more Relief.' He then brought me an Order to go

to

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to Nacton Workhouse. After this I was without any Pay or Flour for Thirteen Weeks. I went to him on a Thursday, and said I had made up my Mind to go to Lancashire. He wished I had done so sooner. I asked him what I should do then? He answered, 'Oh, Mrs. Booth, you shall have Two Stone of Flour after this.' I sold all my Furniture, and went to Heywood, in consequence of their harsh Treatment. They wished me to send Three of my eldest Daughters into Lancashire, and myself and younger Children to enter the Workhouse; but feeling I could not bear to part with my Children, I was determined to do the best for them without being separated; and before I left my native Country I fell upon my bended Knees before the Guardians, and entreated them to allow me Two Stone of Flour, and it would save me from the Necessity of leaving; but it was all to no Purpose. I and my distressed Family were obliged to leave the Place of my Nativity. The Guardians allowed us 2*s.* 6*d.* each; and we were Eight Days on our Journey to Heywood; and upon our Arrival we were upwards of Three Weeks before we could get Employment. ——— employed my Four Children; and I never received more than 15*s.* 6*d.* for the whole of their Work. In consequence of being reduced to 1*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.* I could not consent to work for him any longer, and gave him legal Notice. Notwithstanding which he took them before a Magistrate, who committed them for Two Months to the Salford House of Correction. I had a legal Bargain with ——— for my Children, who were to receive, — Elizabeth, 6*s.* 6*d.*; Susan, 5*s.* 6*d.*; Caroline, 4*s.* 6*d.*; and John, 2*s.* 6*d.*; and signed my Name. The above is a true Statement, signed by Sophia Booth and Children."

Do you know where those Questions were asked which are there stated?
I suppose at Heywood; but I have no Means of knowing that. In one Part of this Statement, as to the Relief, she is not quite correct; but there are many Errors which may have probably occurred without any Intention on her Part to misstate any thing. As to People going to her, and recommending to her to go into Lancashire, that I, as Chairman of the Board, know nothing about. It never took place before the Board.

Did such a Scene as that she describes of her dropping upon her Knees before the Board take place?
Never.

She volunteered to go into Lancashire, you say?
She expressed a Wish to have a Contract for Employment in Lancashire, as I understood; but she here says she was induced by the Persuasion of the Churchwarden.

She was not over-persuaded by you to go?
I never spoke a Word to her upon the Subject.

Nor do you know of any other Person having done it?
Whether the Churchwardens or the Guardians had suggested it I cannot say; but nothing of the Kind passed before the Board.

The Board authorized no one to do that?
No; not that I am aware of.

Do you know in what Way she laboured at Woodbridge?
She is a very hard-working Woman, and as industrious a Woman as is generally to be met with. She is a very excellent Charwoman; and, I believe, goes out nursing.

You say she misrepresented the entire Amount of her Earnings?
So I was informed. It was stated that she was earning more during the Green Pea Season; gathering the Peas for the Market.

How long does the Green Pea Season last?
That I am not able to say.

In what Way did she deceive you in respect to her Earnings?
I only take that from the Report of the Board, not from my own Knowledge, for I was not in the County at the Time.

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You do not know of your own Knowledge any Instance in which she deceived you on the Question with respect to her Earnings?

No. I returned before she went into the Workhouse. From that Circumstance I know that the Ground of their being sent into the Workhouse was the Way in which her Family were going on. I know of no Statement of her going on her Knees to the Guardians, or any thing of the Scene she describes there; and I have met with no Guardian who recollects such a Circumstance.

Do you know what were the Earnings of her Children?

I do not know what they were.

Did she ever come to complain to the Board of the Relieving Officer not having paid her according to the Directions of the Board?

Never; but I was not at Woodbridge during the Month of April, therefore probably I might not hear of a Complaint if one was made. I was absent from April to the early Part of July.

There would be a Record of such a Complaint if made, probably?

Certainly.

Did you inquire for it?

Yes; and they could not find one.

Do you know why the Guardians varied the Allowance so much from Week to Week?

I believe it was in consequence of the different Earnings of the Family.

Whenever the Relief is altered, is it not the Subject of Discussion in the Board?

Constantly; but it was during the Time that I was absent.

How long were Five of her Children in the Workhouse?

That was not till after they came from Manchester. On the 16th of December the following Letter was received by the Clerk of the Board. It begins, "Heap Towns Office, 16th December 1836." It was the first we heard of Mrs. Booth, except that she had arrived safely after her going into Lancashire. This is directed, "To the Overseers of the Poor, Parish of Woodbridge, or Guardians of the Union, Woodbridge, Suffolk." It was, in point of fact, carried to the Clerk of the Union. "Gentlemen,—I am directed to inform you that Application for Relief has been made to our Select Vestry by Sophia Booth, who belongs to the Parish of Woodbridge, and has been sent to this Township by the Officers of the Union, of which Woodbridge makes Part. The Family is working for Mr. James Clegg, and consists of Sophia and Seven Children, Four of which work in the Mill, the other Three are all too young. She brought with her a Boy that did not belong to her, and as soon as he could work a little in the Mill he ran away. She knows not where he is, and the eldest of her Children now refuses to help to maintain the younger Branches of the Family unless you will allow us something for the Three youngest until they are able to work. Provisions are very high in this Part, and I do assure you that the Wages she receives, which is 18*s.* per Week, is insufficient to maintain the Family with. If the Family belonged to us we should allow them 2*s.* per Week; and unless you will allow them weekly Relief until her Circumstances improve we shall remove the Mother with the younger Branches of the Family, as the elder Children will leave the Mother. Your Answer by Return of Post will exceedingly oblige the Select Vestry, for whom I am, Gentlemen, your most obedient Servant, Charles Clegg." The Reply is in these Words:—"Sir,—I am directed by the Parish Officers to acknowledge the Receipt of your Letter, and to state that due Attention shall be paid to it on Monday, on which Day our Board meets." The Board did meet on Monday, and they directed me to write to the Migration Agent for the Purpose of ascertaining the Truth of Mrs. Booth's Statement. I wrote a Letter to the Migration Agent accordingly.

Who is he?

Mr. Muggeridge; but I have not a Copy of that, not having written it until after I went Home, and knowing that Mr. Muggeridge would keep a Copy of it.

Where

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Where does he live?
At Manchester.

How came you to write to the Migration Agent?
To inquire into the Truth of the Statement sent by Mr. Charles Clegg.

On Behalf of whom does he manage the Migration?
He is employed by the Poor Law Commissioners; he is the Person with whom we correspond when we relieve any of the Persons sent into Lancashire.

Those Persons have been so relieved under his Superintendence?
Yes.

He supports them after they arrive at the Place?
Yes; he is the Person to receive them in Lancashire. When they come to London they are received by another Agent, and put on board one of the Canal Vessels.

Do you know whether Mr. Muggeridge sends out any Circular Letters respecting Migration?
I cannot say.

By Migration do you mean Removal out of the Country or within the Country?
From one Part of the Country to another. In going from the Board Room I met a Gentleman of the Name of Fenn, a Schoolmaster at Woodbridge, and he produced a Letter from Mrs. Booth; this Letter stated that the Payments to the whole Family amounted to only 17*s.* a Week. And she also stated that the Prices of all the Articles of Provision were very high, that Clothing was very dear, that Coal was 1*s.* a Bushel; and in a Letter I wrote to Mr. Muggeridge, desiring him to inquire into the Circumstances stated in Mr. Charles Clegg's Letter, I directed him to inquire into the Statements contained in this Letter. I sent to Mr. Fenn for the Letter, but he had lost it. This is the Letter from the Assistant to Mr. Muggeridge: "Dear Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the Receipt of your Letter of the 20th Instant, and in consequence set about an Inquiry into the Truth of Mrs. Booth's Statement. I cannot do better than enclose you her Employer's Letter to me, which will contradict her Assertions. It would do the Boy Harden (that is another Boy) good to send him to the Treadmill. Boys who can work and will not work should be made to work. I wish we could break these people of flying to their Parishes upon every trivial Occasion; but too many of them are so deeply pauperised in their Habits that I fear the present Generation will not easily be broken of it. I have the Honour to be, dear Sir, your obedient Servant, Charles Thomson, P. L. C. Assistant Migration Agent." This is the Letter enclosed from Mr. Clegg: "Dear Sir,—The Agreement with Widow Booth for her Family was as follows: Elizabeth, 6*s.* 6*d.* per Week; Susan, 5*s.* 6*d.*; Caroline, 2*s.* 6*d.*" I have here a List of all the Parties who have migrated from the Woodbridge Union, with the Contracts made for their Work. Sophia Booth, 46; Elizabeth Booth, 17: 6*s.* 6*d.* the first Year, 7*s.* the second, and 7*s.* 6*d.* the third. Susan Booth, 15: 5*s.* 6*d.* the first Year, 6*s.* 6*d.*, and 7*s.* Caroline Booth, aged 13: 2*s.* 6*d.*, 3*s.* 6*d.*, and 4*s.* 6*d.* Then as to the rest of the Family: James Booth, 10; William Booth, 9; Daniel Booth and Sarah Booth—their Ages I have stated—there was no Agreement for them; but it was stated, that One of the Two Boys would be employed, and he was employed by Mr. James Clegg. "Dear Sir,—The Agreement with Widow Booth for her Family was as follows: Elizabeth, 6*s.* 6*d.* per Week; Susan, 5*s.* 6*d.*; Caroline, 2*s.* 6*d.* She brought with her a Boy of the Name of Harding, whom we paid 6*s.* per Week; I have therefore lost by him about Three full Weeks Wages, besides Expenses; and he was by no means worth 6*s.* when he ran away, although I had promised him, if he would exert himself, he should have 6*d.* weekly for himself from the Pay-day before he left. The Parish ought to refund this, as well as One Month's Wages for Semer. Booth's youngest Child is under Age, and is therefore compelled to go to School, and lose One Third of his Wages, as he can only work Eight Hours?"

Which is that?
That is James Booth. "Caroline, from her Size, would soon be worth 5*s.*

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per Week; but from a Defect in her Intellect, brought on, her Mother says, by Fits, she is at present worth very little, but is mending. Their whole Wages, from last Pay-day, will be 18*s.* per Week for the Four." I would call your Lordships Attention to this Circumstance, for Mrs. Booth tells me she never received more than 11*s.* in any one Week, though Mr. Charles Clegg's Letter states them to have been up to 18*s.*, "and not as stated by Mrs. Booth; 6*s.* 6*d.*, 5*s.* 6*d.*, 4*s.* 6*d.*, and 2*s.* 6*d.* The 4*s.* 6*d.* for Caroline is evidently a Mistake, for the Contract says, 2*s.* 6*d.* first Year; 3*s.* 6*d.*; and 4*s.* 6*d.* the third Year. With respect to what Booth says about the Cost of Articles, she is sadly wrong. Coal can be had in plenty at from 3½*d.* to 4½*d.* per Cwt., such as we use. Soap at 4½*d.* lb. to 5½*d.* Candles 5½*d.* to 6*d.* per lb. Flour at present has no settled Price, but was 28*s.* to 32*s.* per Fourteen Scores before the Advance took place, and I suppose is now 36*s.* to 40*s.*" Booth's Letter to Mr. Fenn represented it as being 3*s.* 6*d.* a Stone. "Potatoes from 7*s.* to 11*s.* per Load, which is a very unusual Price; they are frequently 4*s.* to 6*s.*, and have been several Years together. Groceries and Shambles Meat are very low. Butter is, the same as Potatoes, unusually high this Year. Yours truly, Thomas Clegg. P. S.—I will just show you how the others are faring." That alludes to several other Persons he had who went from us; the whole of the Parties who went from our Parish to Mr. Clegg's were then receiving more than they contracted for. Sophia Booth's Contract was 17*s.*, including James, and she was receiving 18*s.*

The others did receive those Amounts and acknowledged it?

I have only Mr. Thomas Clegg's Statement, but I know some of the Parties, and that they are doing well. The first we sent were very good People and conducted themselves well. He says, "These new ones are unsettled dissatisfied People compared with the others; I mean the Foxes in particular. Barnards are very slow indolent Folks, but are much more civil. Boothes are also an helpless Sort of Folks, and the oldest Girl seems careless whether she does any thing or not. They are badly advised I am afraid, for they will find that I cannot encourage them by giving more Wages or otherwise when they never try to make themselves worth it. I assure you it is my Wish to make them all comfortable, but they seem to come here with an Idea that there is a Living provided for them without working. I can safely say that it has hitherto been a great Loss to me, to say nothingof their vexatious Conduct. I hope they will have the good Sense to see their own Interest better." With that Statement, of course, we did not order any Relief to be paid to her in Lancashire. The next Statement from her was on the 28th January 1837, addressed to Mr. Turner. I forget whether he was one of the Board of Guardians at the Time, but he is a very respectable Farmer, living near Woodbridge. "Kind Sir and respected Friend,—It is with great Regret I most humbly address these Lines to you, hoping you will read them at your own Leisure and for your own Satisfaction, respecting my Case. After leaving my own Parish I got removed with my Seven Children, a poor Widow, into Lancashire in the Township of Heap and Parish of Bury, where Four of my oldest Children—Betsy, Susan, Caroline, and James—got Employment at Mr. Thomas Clegg and Sons, Heywood. They having been employed for Fourteen Weeks, their low Wages given to them would scarcely keep us alive; having repeatedly mentioned to our Employers, who took no Heed of it, I gave to them the Notice required." It appears that she had conceived it was only necessary to give a Fortnight's Notice. I believe that the Wages are payable every Fortnight, and she conceived she was on the same Footing as Persons in the immediate Neighbourhood; not having recollected her Contract was for Three Years, she might suppose she gave them the Notice required. "I were encouraged to remove to another Place of Work, where my Children had been employed for One Week." The Children became a little expert at Reeling, and they found they could earn a little better Wages, and therefore they removed to another Place. "Mr. Thomas Clegg obtained Summonses for my Four Children, who got served on the 21st Instant, and they were tried at the Petty Sessions, Rochdale, of Monday last; when, through false Representations, Three of the oldest Children were committed to the New Bailey Salford Prison for Two Months. I am now destitute of any Income, except 1*s.* 6*d.* per Week, out of which I have 2*s.* 6*d.* to pay for Rent weekly, and 1*s.* for Coal it costs me. Wherein am I to obtain them

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them during my Children's Confinement? Allow me, respected Friend, to lay my distressed Case before you, not only for your Inspection, but I wish it to be presented by you unto the Parishioners whereunto I belong. I must confess the Wages which my Four Children obtained from their last Place were much more than Mr. Thomas Clegg gave to them, and we could have recovered ourselves in a little Time. The present acting Overseer of this Place detains from us 1*l.* of the Money you allowed us on leaving your Township; this I wish you to look into for your own Satisfaction, so that the same be either recovered by you or myself. I am extremely sorry to be necessitated to trouble you, having Four of my youngest Children to maintain out of 1*s.* 6*d.* per Week, Rent and Coal to find out of that. Please to have the goodness to refer to the Newspaper, wherein the Case of my poor Three Children may be found. I beg you will have the goodness to look into my Case, for it is a most distressing, I assure you. I am, dear Sir, your sincere Friend and Well-wisher, Sophia Booth.—N.B. Please to write to me, and direct my Letter thus,—John Tetlow, Six Mills Shop, Heywood, Bury, Lancashire." At the Bottom is, "The above Statement is true. I have been an Eyewitness to the same. John Tetlow, Heywood, 28th January 1837.—To Mr. Robert Turner, Farmer, Woodbridge, near Drybridge, Suffolk. With Speed." Mr. Turner brought this Letter to the Board, and the Board made the following Minute: "The Case of Widow Booth, a Migrant, was considered, and it was ordered, that the Clerk write to Mr. Thompson, Migration Agent, to request the Overseer of Heap, or Heywood, to relieve Widow Booth and Family, whose Three Children are sent to Gaol for leaving their Masters, Clegg and Co.'s, Services, and the Board will repay the Amount; the Relief to be given during Children's Confinement." A Letter was also written to Mr. Muggeridge: "Woodbridge Union. Sir,—I am directed by the Board to request that you will direct the Overseer of Heap to relieve the Widow Booth and Family, whose Three Children are sent to Gaol for leaving Messrs. Clegg; the Board will direct the immediate Repayment of the Amount. The Relief to be continued during the Children's Confinement in Gaol." Signed by the Clerk of the Board, "Thomas Carthew." In answer to this Letter came a Letter from Mr. Muggeridge, dated the 10th of February 1837. "Sir,—In reference to that Part of your Letter of the 7th Instant relating to the Widow Booth, I must decline being any Party to Relief being afforded her, as I am of Opinion that if there was a Case in which Relief should be withheld it is hers. Her Children are no sooner taught their Trade, at considerable Trouble and Expense to their Employers, than they break the Contract which they themselves and the Mother made for Three Years, and go and procure Work elsewhere. For this dishonest Conduct they are brought before the Magistrates, who give them the Option of returning to their Employment or being committed for Two Months to Gaol, with the Option, at any Time of going back to work. This they decline doing; and if under such Circumstances the Mother finds she can be kept at the Parish Expense, I have no Doubt but that the whole of the Woodbridge Families will act in the same Manner, and in a few Months many of them would be returning Home. My Object in making the Contracts for Three Years is as much to protect the Parishes as to secure to the Families Employment for that Period; but if they are permitted to break these Engagements with Impunity, and can be maintained by the Poor's Rate whenever they think proper to do so, it is useless taking such Precaution. I send for the Inspection of the Guardians a Letter from Mr. Thomas Clegg in reference to another of his Suffolk Families." There was also a Copy of a Letter from the Overseer of Heap, dated February 15th 1837: "Gentlemen,—I beg to inform you that Sophia Booth is in great Distress; her eldest Children, finding that the Income of the Family was insufficient to maintain them, left Mr. Thomas Clegg's Employment, and he has got them committed to Prison for Two Months. I presented your Letter to Mr. Muggeridge, and he thought I had better write you again before that he advanced any Money; but I have been under the Necessity of advancing them 10*s.*, and she is wanting more; and I am quite certain that she cannot maintain her Family without your Help, if the Girls were out of Prison, Provisions are so very high. She has been very poorly for the last Two Weeks. I hope you will take her Case into your most serious Consideration; and let me know, immediately after your next Meeting, what I must do for her; and will oblige, Gentlemen, your most

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most obedient Servant, Charles Clegg." There was a Minute of the Board of Guardians, dated 20th February 1837; and that ordered that the 10*s.* already given her by the Overseer be paid him, but that nothing further be allowed. Then there is a Copy of a Letter from the Poor Law Commissioners: "Poor Law Commission Office, Somerset House, 3d of June 1837. Sir,—The Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales forward, for the Information of the Board of Guardians of the Woodbridge Union, the enclosed Extracts from a Report which they have received from Mr. Muggeridge, their Migration Agent, in Contradiction of Mis-statements which appeared in some of the public Prints respecting the Cases of Widow Neale, Mary Dawley, and Widow Booth, Migrants from your Union. Signed by order of the Board. George Coode, Assistant Secretary." Addressed to "Mr. Moulton, Clerk to the Guardians, Woodbridge."—"Widow Booth:—This Woman came with her Family to the Employ of Mr. James Clegg of Heywood, and instead of being Three Weeks before they could get Employment they were set to work immediately on their Arrival. According to the Terms of their Contract the Three eldest were earning and paid 16*s.* 6*d.* weekly, but all ran away from their Work. Mr. Thomas Clegg brought them before the Magistrates, who, after a patient Investigation of the Case, gave them the Option of returning to their Employment or being committed to Prison for Two Months. They chose the latter, and underwent their Sentence." On receiving this Letter from Mr. Muggeridge we wrote to Widow Booth herself, advising her to do as Mr. Clegg recommended her to do; namely, to get her Children taken out of Prison, and to let them go into Mr. Thomas Clegg's Employment again. However, it appears that Mrs. Booth did not choose to adopt that Course, and she has since told me that she was maintained partly by her own Earnings and partly by Subscription by the People. We of course expected that she would be chargeable to the Parish, and that she would be passed Home, conceiving that after their Conduct they would not get on; however they did stay, and we heard nothing more of them until the Order of Removal was made out for the whole of the Family. This Order is dated the 31st of July, but Mrs. Booth and the whole of her Family did not come Home till the 28th of October. Of course, as we had no other Means of providing for her, we gave her and her Children an Order for the Poorhouse; they went to the Poorhouse, and remained there till the 26th of March 1838, that is from October to March. Previously to the 26th of March Mrs. Booth had made an Application to the Visiting Committee of Nacton Workhouse, requesting to be sent into Lancashire with her Children again; the Children had expressed themselves very anxious to go into Lancashire and she wished to go too. The Board of Guardians took the Matter into consideration, but determined to keep them and do the best they could for them, thinking it was useless to send them. She then applied to the Visiting Committee for Leave to go before the Board, for the Purpose of asking for an Out-door Allowance. I should explain that our Workhouse is not the Place where the Board of Guardians meet; we are obliged to have a Visiting Committee who meet there. The Master gave a very good Account of her, and said she was useful in the House. It was proposed that she should again have an Out-allowance; she received some Caution about the Conduct of her Family, and we hoped she might go on and do well. Contrary to our usual Rule we made an Exception as to her, and desired her to state what Sum, with the Labour of her Family, she thought she could maintain herself upon; she said she should be very much obliged to us if we would allow her 7*s.* a Week. Under the Regulations, we found that Part must be in Money and Part in Kind, therefore we gave her in Money and Kind 7*s.* 7*d.* She went away and received the Allowance, and took all her Family out of the House with her; but before the End of the Week she applied to the Relieving Officer, saying she was in Distress. The Relieving Officer went to visit her, and, as he states to me, he saw People come in and out,—young Persons; that he did not think Things were going on properly, and he gave an Order for the House for herself and Five of the Children. The Two elder Children were above the Age at which they are considered Part of the Mother's Family, and they had probably got Employment. Mrs. Booth and her Five younger Children received an Order for the House; she took the Order and went with her Children Part of the Way to Nacton Poorhouse, which is Six or Seven Miles from Woodbridge, and then she left her Children in the Road. The Children went to the House, and arrived there. The Master

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of the Workhouse saw the Order, and saw that it was for Mrs. Booth and Five Children; he very properly received them in, and did not go by the strict Letter of the Law, of not admitting the Parties unless the whole attended; but he made a Complaint to the Board on the following Monday, and the Board directed the Case of Mrs. Booth to be taken before the Magistrates for deserting the Children. The Magistrates sent her to the House of Correction for Fourteen Days; at the End of Fourteen Days she was discharged, and I saw nothing of her till Saturday last, when I received the Order from your Lordships to attend here. This is the only Case within our own Union of Complaint I have ever seen stated in the public Prints, and therefore I supposed it not improbable it might be the Case referred to. She was employed with her Second Daughter, Susan, in Rod-peeling; they cut Willows and strip them for the Purpose of making Baskets. I had some Conversation with her, and asked her how she supported herself and Family in Lancashire during the Time that her Children were in Gaol, and before the Order of Removal was given. She told me that her other Son William got work at *2s.* a Week, and that James had *2s. 6d.*, and that she herself was earning *4s. 6d.*, and that her Two eldest Daughters, Elizabeth and Susan, were in Service, the one receiving *2s. 6d.* a Week and the other *2s.* The one who was receiving *2s. 6d.* was Elizabeth, who was represented as not wishing to contribute any Part of her Earnings to the Support of the Family. Out of these Wages Mrs. Booth says she gave her *1s.* a Week. When the Order was made out the Overseer of Heap went to the Places where Elizabeth and Susan were in Service, and put their Names into the Order, and sent the whole back to Woodbridge in Suffolk. I asked Mrs. Booth whether she had applied to the Visiting Committee to be sent into Lancashire. She said she had, and that she was still determined to go; and her Daughter said likewise she was determined to go back again too. The Question one was naturally led to ask was, "If you could get Work in this Way," for she stated that she could get work, "how happens it that you came out of Lancashire?" And she said, "Because the Board would not allow me *2s.* a Week." That was the *2s.* which she made the first Application for. This seemed hardly a sufficient Reason; and there was a Tradesman of Woodbridge with me, who said, "Mrs. Booth, is not there another Reason?" Then she confessed she was engaged to be married to a Man in Lancashire; and I should not be very much surprised if, when I return into Suffolk, I find that she has gone into Lancashire. Her Object, as far as I can trace it, is simply to get her Five Children into the Workhouse and to go into Lancashire. At present she is earning her own Livelihood, which she is very capable of doing, and her Two eldest Daughters also, but they do not assist the other Five younger Children in the Workhouse.

What is she receiving now?

Nothing; she is fully capable of earning her own Livelihood, and the Two eldest Children are now beyond the Age of Sixteen.

Do you know why those Children left the Work of Mr. Thomas Clegg in Lancashire?

The Reason was that they could earn higher Wages. They had been at work Two or Three Months, and they were active and industrious in their Business, and they could get higher Wages. In point of fact Mrs. Booth, in her Letter to Mr. Turner, states that "they were worth much more than Mr. Thomas Clegg gave to them."

They did not state that the Work in the Factories disagreed with them?

No; on the contrary, Susan, whom I saw, said she would go back again.

You are aware that Agricultural Labourers sometimes are not able to bear the Air of the Factories?

That may be so.

Were they Spinners?

I am not aware; but the Girl Susan stated, that if she had been permitted by the Overseer of Heap to remain in Service where she was, she could have gone again into the Factory soon after and done very well. But I should state that the Reason they could not get Employment was, that Mr. Clegg would

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not give them a Certificate or Recommendation after they came out of Prison.

When the Widow Booth had all her Family at home she received 2*s.* 6*d.* in Money and Three Stone of Flour a Week?
Yes.

The usual Allowance in Suffolk for an adult Person is One Stone of Flour per Week, is it not?
I know of no such Allowance. We have no fixed Scale whatever; we relieve every Person according to the Circumstances of the Case.

Is not the usual Quantity of Flour given to an adult Person out of the Workhouse One Stone per Week?
I do not know.

You do not know how Three Stone of Flour came to be given?
Yes; it was given because it was the same Amount she had received and was satisfied with under the old Law.

That she received without accounting for any of the Earnings of her Children?
Yes. Her Husband having been only dead a few Months we gave the same Allowance which we found her in the Receipt of before the Parish came under the Control of the Board; but we did not intend to give her a fixed Annuity; and after a Time this Inquiry took place. I happened at the Time to be absent.

In consequence of that Inquiry to what was it reduced?
She had for Three Weeks, between April and July, only Three Stone of Flour; that was during the Green Pea Season.

After that was over did you again give her Money?
Yes; 2*s.* 6*d.* and Three Stone of Flour.

Before you offered her the Workhouse what was she receiving?
The Week before that she had 1*s.* 6*d.* and Three Stone of Flour.

Are the Five younger Children now in the Workhouse?
Yes.

Does the Mother pay any thing towards the Expenses?
No. Mrs. Booth came out of Gaol, and no Inquiry was made; we took care of the Children and let the Mother go.

You consider her industrious and steady in her Character?
The Steadiness of her Character I should wish not to answer for. She is a hard-working Woman; every body gives her the Character of industrious.

You found on Inquiry, or rather the Relieving Officer found there had been Impropriety in the Conduct of her House and Family?
In the Conduct of the young People. There were young Men going backwards and forwards.

Were the Two eldest then living with her?
Yes. That was before she went into Lancashire.

Do you consider such supposed Improprieties a Reason for sending Persons to the Union Workhouse?
I think it was something stronger than Supposition.

Such real or alleged Improprieties?
Yes.

You think the Law ought to have Cognizance of Individuals in such respects?
I do not quite arrive at that Conclusion; but when Parties ask for Relief I think we exercised proper Discretion in not giving them Relief to encourage them in following improper Courses.

Are the Males and Females separated in the Woodbridge Workhouse by Day as well as by Night?
Yes.

Whether married or not?
Yes.

Are married Couples separated from their Children?
The infant and young Children are always allowed to go with their Mothers.

You mean sucking Babes?
Young Children up to Two Years old; the other Children go to School. There is a Boys School and a Girls School.

If any Friends come to visit them have they Intercourse with them?
Certainly.

Alone, or in the Presence of the Officer of the Establishment?
The Officer goes out, I believe; but I cannot speak with Certainty. A few Weeks ago, in going round the House, I saw a Person sitting on the Bed of a Woman who was ill.

Was it a Doctor?
No; it was a Female.

There was no other Person in the Room?
Only the Nurse. The Brother and Sister of the Woman had come over to see her. The Woman got up and asked me whether she might have Permission to visit her at any Time during the Three or Four Days that she remained in Suffolk; and I said, "Yes, certainly."

At the Time that Mrs. Booth left Suffolk to go into Lancashire she had Four Children who could not have earned any thing for their own Support?
James probably might have earned something; there were Three who certainly could not.

At that Time she was not receiving any Allowance from you?
No; she was offered the Workhouse, but did not choose to accept it.

Have you a considerable Number of Inmates in this Union Workhouse?
177.

What is the Population of your Union?
22,163.

Of how many Parishes does it consist?
Forty-six.

Where does the Board of Guardians meet?
At Woodbridge.

At what Distance may that be from the extreme Points of the Union?
Eight or Nine Miles, or perhaps Ten. Our Union is singularly situated. Woodbridge stands at the Head of the River Deben, which divides the Parishes of the Hundred of Colneis and Carlford from those of Wilford.

Who is the Assistant Commissioner in your District?
Doctor Kay.

Has not Doctor Kay recommended in Suffolk that those who want Employment should be sent to the Factories?
When he came into Suffolk he recommended that certainly. I can state the Number who went, and the Number who have returned, if it is wished.

What was his Object in recommending her going to Lancashire?
To get better Employment. Some are getting 40*s.* a Week, and more.

Did you ever read a Pamphlet of Dr. Kay's, representing the Evils which prevail in Factories?
No; I have heard of it.

Have you been Chairman of the Board of Guardians in Woodbridge ever since its Formation?
Yes.

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What Effect upon the Conduct and Manners of the lower Class of People at Woodbridge has the Introduction of the Poor Law had?

I hear the Farmers say it has made a very sensible Alteration, and that the Poor are now more fully employed than heretofore; I believe there is hardly an able-bodied Labourer unemployed. I have an Account of the State of Part of our Union. The Hundred of Colneis and Carlford was in an incorporated Hundred. Nearly a Thousand able-bodied Labourers received Relief from 1833 to 1834. On looking at the Paper it appears that the Number of able-bodied Labourers receiving Parish Relief from Michaelmas 1833 to Michaelmas 1834 was 940.

From Michaelmas 1836 to Michaelmas 1837 how many were there?

That I cannot tell; the only able-bodied Labourers receiving Parish Relief were those in the Workhouse.

How many of them were in the Workhouse?

I think there are Ten able-bodied Labourers in the Workhouse at the present Moment.

Were there more in the Winter?

Yes; I dare say there were Forty.

With what sized Families?

That I cannot say.

They never exceeded Fifty?

No; I believe not. They were none of them good Hands; there was scarcely a Labourer in the Workhouse who was worth the average Wages Farmers gave to able-bodied Labourers.

Have you gone about among the People from which that Class of Paupers came since the Establishment of the new Poor Law?

Yes, I have, a good deal.

Have you at all ascertained what is their Feeling?

All the really industrious Labourers state this: they know the Misery of the Out-allowance System; they know that it has been the Means of reducing the Value of their Labour. They say that an able-bodied Labourer in work should not receive any thing from the Parish; but they think it hard that the Man willing to work, and not able to obtain Employment, should not be relieved out of the House.

Is it your Impression that they feel themselves as well or better off than under the old Law?

There are some who would say they are quite as well off under the present as under the old Law, and others who perhaps would say they are not; but unless they received more Money, both from Rate and Wages at the same Time, under the old Law, they must be better off. I have Returns here of some Parishes. Finding there were so many able-bodied Labourers unemployed when we commenced the System I was anxious to ascertain what was the State of these Men under the Operation of the new Law; I therefore made Inquiries about them in March 1837. For instance, I wrote to the Overseer or Guardian of the Parish of Bradfield, and inquired, "How many able-bodied Labourers received Relief in your Parish, from Lady Day 1834 to the same Day 1835?" The Answer was, "Fifty." The next Question was, "How are they now employed?" The Return stated, "Fully employed, Eighteen; casually employed, Nineteen; gone away, Four; transported, Two; in Prison, One; dead, One; old and infirm, Five."

Has the Rate of Wages risen?

The Rate of Wages has risen; but I do not apprehend it has risen from any Operation of the Poor Law, but that it has been in consequence of the Rise in the Price of Flour.

You are understood to have stated that the able-bodied Labourers have expressed an Opinion that no Relief should be given to the able-bodied?

Yes.

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Do they express that to be their Opinion, if they could not get Employment?
No.

Are you not aware that there is at present, from various Causes, a greater Facility for obtaining Employment than existed from the Year 1830 to the Year 1834?
I am not aware of any Cause.

Are you not aware that Railroads are making in various Parts of the Kingdom?
Yes; but very few of our People have gone to the Railroads. A Suffolk Man is a very quiet orderly Person. Some of those who went in the early Part to the Railroads found a riotous Set of People there, and though they earned great Wages they returned.

Are you not aware that the Farmers are in more prosperous Circumstances now than they were in 1834, and are more able to employ Labourers?
Yes; I believe they are better off.

Do you consider the Employment given by the Railroads and the Farmers to be in consequence of the new Poor Law?
I consider the Employment given by Farmers to be in consequence of the new Poor Law, arising from Two Grounds: first, that not having to pay so much in Rates they have more more Money to pay in Wages for Labour; and next, that the Workhouse System cuts Two Ways; the Labourer dislikes it, as being less desirable to him than the Wages of Labour; and it is less desirable to the Farmer, because it is more expensive.

Is not the Farmer able to give better Wages because of the higher Price of Corn?
Yes.

Is not a Man's Labour better worth having since the new Poor Law?
Yes.

Is that generally felt to be so?
I have heard Masters say that before the Poor Law the Labourers were almost their Masters, but that now they are obedient. The Poorhouse is disagreeable both to the labouring Man and to the Farmer too, and it is their mutual Interest the Men should be kept out.

Is not the Expense of maintaining a Labourer in a Union Workhouse much greater than the Relief he would receive out?
Yes. A Man came and made his Bargain with the Overseer. "What will you take?—I will take 4*s.* not to be troublesome to the Parish." Then he went to another Parish, and under-worked the People in that Parish.

Do you know what was the Price of Agricultural Produce in the Autumn of 1834?
No; I cannot recollect it.

Have you been able to observe whether the Labourers have performed their Work better since the new Poor Law?
I do not think it fair to quote partial Instances to prove a general Rule; but I know Instances of several Men who have been on the Parish Rates Years who have now become very good Labourers.

Have you a great many Beer Houses in your Union?
A Gentleman in our Union took the Number the other Day. He found that there were Beer Houses in only Twelve Parishes of the Union, the Union consisting of Forty-six Parishes.

Have those Beer Houses decreased since the new Poor Law?
I believe they have; but I cannot speak to that.

Do you know Mr. Lewin of Wickham Market?
Yes.

How far is Wickham Market from Woodbridge?
About Four Miles. He is a very excellent worthy Miller.

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Has he ever been to your Board to complain of the Conduct of the Relieving Officer, or the Guardians, in respect of the Allowances to any of your poor People?

Never. If Mr. Lewin had come upon this Case of Mrs. Booth, we should have told him the whole Story.

He never came to your Board to inquire into the Circumstances?

Never.

Have you inquired of the Members of the Board, or any of your Brother Guardians, how far he has inquired respecting this Case of Mrs. Booth?

I never heard that he made any Inquiry from any of the Members of the Board.

Are you likely to have heard of it?

Yes; I think I should have heard of it. Mr. Lewin is so well known in Suffolk as an Opposer of the present Law, that I think I must have heard of it, if he had made any Inquiry, from the Guardians. I beg to be understood not to say a Word against Mr. Lewin on this Account; he is a very worthy, excellent Miller. I wish him every Success at his Trade of Milling; but when he tried his Hand at the Administration of the Poor Laws he did not succeed well. The Rates were raised from 700*l.* to 900*l.*, under the Management of the Select Vestry, of which, I believe, he was the Principal; and I certainly am not aware that the Poor of Wickham Market were better off than they were in any other District.

Were not the Rates greatly reduced by the Incorporation having been dissolved by his Influence and Exertion?

The Incorporation was dissolved by his Influence and Exertion; but the Rates were raised from 700*l.* to 900*l.* in Wickham Market.

You know that of your own Knowledge?

I saw the Rate Book.

Might not the Rates have been raised from other Causes, and not the Dissolution of the Incorporation?

I do not know. It was Mr. Lewin's Anticipation that the Dissolution of the Union would reduce the Rates.

Are you an ex-officio Guardian or an elected?

Ex-officio.

Who are the elected Guardians for Woodbridge?

Mr. Cana, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Turner, and Mr. Doughty.

To your Knowledge did Mr. Lewin ever speak to either of those Gentlemen with respect to Widow Booth?

I believe he never did; I am confident, in my own Opinion, he never did.

Are they Men likely to have kept it back if he did so?

No; if Mr. Lewin had made a Complaint of any Person in our Union we should have inquired into it directly. We have had Complaints from Gentlemen in the Neighbourhood, and Notes addressed to myself as Chairman, to say that such a Person is in Want of Relief. We have gone into the Inquiry and found most commonly that the Party has been mistaken.

Your Board has never declined going into the Inquiry or giving necessary Explanation?

No; we inquire immediately. A Complaint was made to the Board in the latter End of January, and we immediately directed the Relieving Officer to bring up the Man; and after hearing his Case, I turned to his Examination at the first Formation of the Union to find whether he was receiving any Parochial Relief. I found he was receiving 7*s.* I asked him whether he was satisfied with that. He said he was perfectly satisfied. I then asked him whether one of his Children had not got Employment, and whether he had not fewer Children on his Hands than he had at the Time he had 7*s.* Allowance. He said yes. We turned to his Allowance, and we found he had 7*s.* 9*d.*, with One Child less. I said, "What makes you grumble, when you receive more now than before the Formation of the Union?" He said he did not like to be grumbling, but a Gentleman told him he had not sufficient.

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Who was the Gentleman?
I could mention the Name if it were wished.

It was not Mr. Lewin?
Certainly not.

What is your Relieving Officer's Name?
We have Three: Thirton, Miles, and Shephard.

Did you ever ask the Relieving Officers whether Mr. Lewin had made any Complaint to them about the Widow Booth?
No.

He is known to be very much opposed to the Poor Law?
He is.

When you heard of the Case having been brought before this Committee, did you feel it necessary to make Inquiry of the Relieving Officers whether Mr. Lewin had made Complaint to them?
No; I am almost certain he had not.

Had you any Applications from able-bodied Labourers for Assistance the last Winter?
Yes; several. The Farmers in our Union, when it was proposed that Out-door Relief to the able-bodied should cease, told me they would keep the Poor employed if it was done away with; and they have most fully and most entirely carried the Thing out. The principal Part of our Applications from able-bodied were from Persons in Woodbridge Parish, and the Town of Woodbridge; Bricklayers Labourers or Persons of that Class, or Men that could not earn the full Rate of Wages.

Have you had any Applications from the Families of Agricultural Labourers to take any of their Children into the Workhouse this Winter?
No. We have never taken Children from their Parents, for this Reason; it is tantamount to refusing them Relief: they cannot settle which Child is to go to the Poorhouse, and they do not like to divide. If we adopted this System the Farmers would say to the Labourers, you may have your Children relieved in the Workhouse, and we cannot employ them.

Have you given Relief to any Paupers with large Families out of the House?
No. The fact is that the Farmers in Suffolk employ a great Number of Children; and I believe that those who have attended to the Subject find that they can keep the Land much cleaner by employing Women and Children than they can by so much ploughing.

Is there not a Difference made in the Wages given by the Farmers to the Labourers who have Families?
No; they take the Children and employ them.

You have found that the Farmers have kept their Word of employing the Men since you gave up Out-door Relief?
Yes.

And you find that extend to able-bodied Labourers with very large Families?
Yes.

Have you perceived they have materially assisted them by employing their Children?
Yes.

Are the Farmers in your Neighbourhood large Farmers?
Yes; they are an opulent Class of Yeomanry.

Do you think that the general Earnings of Labourers Families are as large as they used to be when you included both Wages and Allowances?
Yes, I should say they were; but I am very much inclined to believe that many Labourers who used to be receiving Parish Relief also got Work in addition. I heard an Instance of that the other Day. A Man who lived at Bealings, which is about Six or Seven Miles from a Place called Monewden,

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was receiving Relief from the Parish of Monewden; and the Parish of Monewden mustered its Paupers once a Week. He used to go over to Monewden and receive his Money there while he was receiving Wages in the Parish of Bealings.

Did they get more for their Families, taking together their Wages and Allowances, under the old System, than they do under the new?
I do not think they got more.

You think that the Farmers deducted from the Wages the Amount of the Allowances made on account of Families?
I think they lowered Wages in some Instances.

Your Rule in the Woodbridge Union is to give no Out-door Relief?
Yes; that is our general Rule, as to able-bodied Persons.

Do you mean that it is not peremptory; have not you received such an Order from the Commissioners?
We have received no peremptory Order from the Commissioners. If an able-bodied Labourer applied to us To-morrow, under Circumstances which appeared to us to require it, we should feel ourselves at liberty to relieve him.

Do you think that the Advance in the Rate of Wages has been equal to the Wages in former Years and the Allowance?
Any Increase in the Amount of Wages has arisen from an Increase in the Employment of Children.

You conceive that the System of Allowances operated upon the Employment of the Labourers, and that they have been more employed since that System has been discontinued?
Yes. If a Man was receiving 10*s*. as Wages, and 4*s*. out of the Rates, the Farmer had to pay Rate and Wages too, which reduced his Power to that Extent of providing additional Labour on his Farm.

Has the System of Allotment of Land been introduced much into your County?
To a certain Extent; but the Farmers, generally, do not like the System. That it is a great Advantage to the Labourer I have not the least Doubt. It is gaining Ground.

What is the average Quantity of Land allotted to them?
A Quarter of an Acre, I think, is about the customary Quantity. That is quite as much as a Man can cultivate who is in full Work, and who does not work in his Garden before he goes to work for the Farmer, which is an essential Stipulation in letting the Land.

Do you insist upon their cultivating a Portion of it with Wheat?
No. I have a good Number of Cottage Allotments. I never tie them down to a Course of cropping; all I see is, that they manure it every Year, which they do.

It is not given as a Potatoe Ground?
There are some on which the same Plot of Land has grown Potatoes for Twenty Years.

Do not you consider it somewhat objectionable to introduce these Plots as Potatoe Grounds?
I do not see any Objection to it. A Man crops the Land with that which he thinks most profitable to himself. Some grow Wheat, some Potatoes, some Cabbages, some Onions, and so on.

Yours is chiefly an Agricultural District?
Yes; entirely.

What is the Population of Woodbridge?
5,000.

You do not object to a Labourer cultivating his Ground after he comes from his Work?
No.

R. N. Shawe, Esq.

Why do you object to their cultivating their Grounds before they go to work?

Because they go tired to their Work.

How many is your Workhouse capable of holding?

We could make Room for from 300 or 400.

Is it a new Building or an old one?

An old one; it is the old incorporated Hundred of Colneis and Carlford with Eighteen Parishes added to it.

What has been the Effect on your Poor Rates?

I think the Reduction is about Thirty-three per Cent; for, upon the former Expenditure of Parishes, averaged for Three Years before the Formation of the Union, this is the Statement given in by the Clerk: "Average Annual Expenditure from the Poor Rate, in the Parishes within the Woodbridge Union, for Three Years previously to the Formation of the Union, 19,493*l.* Expenditure from Lady Day 1836 to Lady Day 1837, 12,725*l.*; the same, from Lady Day 1837 to Lady Day 1838, 11,968*l.*" This is furnished to me by the Clerk, and he says it is correct. "The Average Price of Flour, in the first Period, was 1*s.* 11*d.*; in the second Period, 2*s.* 2*d.*

What was the Price of Corn in the Three previous Years?

I cannot give that.

Before the Introduction of the amended Law was it not a common Thing for Farmers to pay to married Men higher Wages than to single Men?

Yes.

Do they pay them all alike now?

I am not able to say.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned to Thursday next, Twelve o'Clock.

Die Jovis, 24° Maii 1838.

The Lord WHARNCLIFFE in the Chair.

JAMES PRINGLE BARCLAY Esquire is called in, and examined as follows:

WHERE do you reside?
At Wickham Market in Suffolk.

That is the Centre of the Plomesgate Union?
It is the Place where the House is situate, and where the Guardians meet.

Are you a Guardian?
I am.

Are you Chairman or Vice Chairman?
I am Vice Chairman.

Have you at Wickham Market a Widow of the Name of Susan Ling?
She does not reside in Wickham Market; I presume the Question alludes to Susan Ling of Blaxhall.

Do you know her?
I know her personally, having frequently seen her at the Board.

What aged Woman is she?
I take the Information I find on the Union Books; on her Examination Two Years ago she gave her Age as Forty-six.

How many Children had she altogether, and how many were living with her and dependent upon her Means of Subsistence?
On her Examination on the 4th December 1835 she stated herself to have Eight Children at home and Four out.

Was that the Time of the Formation of the Union?
It was her first Examination; on the first Time Paupers came before the Board of Guardians from that Parish.

Had she had Relief under the old System?
Yes.

What Relief had she had under the old System?
The old Relief, prior to the Union, was 7*s.* a Week.

After her Examination what Relief was given her by the Board of Guardians?
Two Stone and a Half of Flour, and 2*s.* a Week.

What was the Two Stone and a Half of Flour worth?
According to my Recollection, Flour was then worth 1*s.* 8*d.* per Stone.

That would be 4*s.* 2*d.*?
Yes.

How long was she continued upon that Allowance?
That Relief appears to have been continued up to the 25th of December 1835, from the 4th of December, when the Order was made.

Upon the 25th of December what did she receive?
I have an Account of that quarterly. She received in the First Quarter of 1836, 1*l.* 6*s.* in Money, and 2*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.* in Kind, which, I believe, represents precisely the Relief ordered by the Board before.

J. P. Barclay, Esq.

Did you pay it quarterly?

No; it was paid weekly, in the ordinary Course. The Second Quarter she received 1*l.* 6*s.* in Money, 2*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.* in Kind, the Difference of the Relief in Kind arising from a Difference in the Price of Flour. The Third Quarter 1*l.* 6*s.* and 2*l.* 14*s.* 1*d.* in Kind; the Fourth Quarter 1*l.* 5*s.* in Money, and 2*l.* in Kind. There was another Examination on the 19th July 1836, of which I find the following Memorandum: "Susan Ling, aged Forty-six, with Six Children under Sixteen; the Children earning 3*s.* 6*d.* per Week; Part Relief (that is the Relief up to that Time) Two Stone and a Half of Flour and 2*s.* Ordered Two Stone of Flour and 2*s.* weekly."

Can you account for taking off Two of the Children?

The Eight Children mentioned as being at home in the first instance would appear not to have been all chargeable Children, for the Names and Ages of her chargeable Children at that Time are, Mary Ann, aged Fifteen; John, aged Thirteen; Abraham, aged Eleven; Bathsheba, aged Nine; and Two younger, making Six; then Two of the Children, to make up the Eight, who are mentioned as at home, must have been Children who were not chargeable, probably William, aged Seventeen, and Susan, aged Eighteen.

Do you mean to state that the Reduction was in consequence of your finding that Susan and William were above the Ages which they should be to be considered as Members of her Family?

No; the first Order was not made for the Eight Children at home, but for the Widow with the Six Children. Although it is stated in the Minute of the Examination that she had Eight Children at home, it did not thence follow that they were all chargeable to her.

That being the Case, why was the Allowance reduced in consequence in July?

I am not able to state why it was from my own Recollection, but as I have it stated in this Minute of the Examination that the Children were earning 3*s.* 6*d.* at work, and in the former Months there does not appear any Earning by a chargeable Child beyond 1*s.* 6*d.*, I think that the Half Stone was taken off on account of the increased Earnings.

Were the Children employed at Harvest at that Time?

It was an early Harvest that Year; probably that was the Case.

At what Period was there another Alteration?

On the 11th October 1836 she was before the Board again. The following is the Memorandum of her Examination: "Susan Ling, a Widow, has Mary Ann, aged Fifteen, at Mr. Hillen's, earning 4*d.* a Day; made 1*s.* 2*d.* last Week. John, Thirteen, at Mr. Hillen's, 3*d.* a Day; last Week earned 1*s.* 6*d.* Abraham, Eleven, no Work. Joseph, a Son aged Twenty, lives with her. Susan, aged Nineteen, at Mr. Hillen's, at 7*d.* a Day; she pays no Rent; was offered the House for the whole Family, or the old Allowance."

That is, the Two Stone and 2*s.*?

Yes. From the Account which I have stated to your Lordships of Relief received by her it appears that she preferred taking the old Allowance.

Were those Two elder Children paying any thing to their Mother for their Lodging?

That is a Question which most probably was asked of her, but it does not appear on the Minute, and I cannot state from Memory whether it was asked.

You did not find out whether they contributed in any Way to the Support of the Mother?

No; that is a Question almost always asked at the Board, but I cannot say whether it was then put.

When was there any other Alteration in her Allowance?

On the 28th of February 1837 I find it stated that the present Relief was continued, namely, Two Stone of Flour and 2*s.*

J. P. Barclay, Esq.

What was the Value of a Stone of Flour at that Time?
I cannot tell, except that the Stone of Flour in Thirteen Weeks came to 3*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.*

Then the Flour was much higher then than it had been previously?
Much higher; I believe it was 2*s.* 4*d.* a Stone. She received throughout that Quarter 1*l.* 6*s.* Money, being 2*s.* a Week, and the Flour. Upon that same Day Orders for Relief were made for Two Children of her Family who were living in the House with her, though not chargeable to her.

They were ordered Relief on separate Grounds, being themselves Paupers?
Yes; Susan, a Daughter, aged Twenty, being ill, was ordered Half a Stone of Flour and 1*s.* weekly during Illnes; Mary Ann, another Daughter, aged Sixteen, ill, ordered Half a Stone of Flour and 1*s.* during Illness.

Then she had only Five Children, Mary Ann having become independent?
Yes.

How long did that go on?
I believe it went on till the 29th of September 1837.

Was there any Offer in July 1837 to take her into the Workhouse, and was her Allowance then taken off?
Not in July; I have no Reason to believe that that was the Case. I have an Extract in my Hand from the Union Books; I find no Entry of the Date of July 1837 of an Order made to Susan Ling of any Kind whatever.

Are you sure from that Circumstance that no Order was given?
I am as certain as I can be, but I will refer to the Relieving Officer's Books. (*The Witness refers to the same.*) I find that on the Seventh Week of the Quarter ending 29th September 1837 Susan Ling had an Order for the House; that would be in August.

Is there any Entry of the Board what happened in consequence of that Order?
No.

Did she go into the Workhouse?
I can venture to state from my own Memory that she did not.

Was the Allowance taken off?
Certainly; the Order for the House was in lieu of the former Allowance.

What did she receive in the course of that Quarter?
She received during that Quarter 13*s.* 6*d.* in Money, and 1*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.* in Kind.

Can you give any Reason for taking off the Allowance?
I do not recollect any particular Reason then, but I can state, from my Recollection of the Woman, having frequently examined her, that she was considered to have a large Family of Children who could do much more Work than they did; that she did not appear to use the necessary Endeavours to get the Children into Work; that she had been repeatedly told that she might do a great deal better in Lancashire than she did at home; and all those Circumstances combined led the Board at length to give her an Order for the House.

Was the Allowance stopped in order to induce her to go into Lancashire?
Certainly not with that Intention.

How came her Circumstances to be so altered between the Month of June and the Month of August, when the Parish thought fit to stop the Allowance?
It was always conceived that if she used due Exertion she could maintain herself and Family, or very nearly so. Though Susan Ling's Case was not met by an Order from the House up to this Period, I can from my Recollection of it state to your Lordships that it was intended to draw the Cord rather tighter with Susan Ling as soon as an Opportunity offered, and that its going on up to the Time mentioned was on account of the Wish of the Board not to press too hardly on her.

J. P. Barclay, Esq.

There had been an Attempt to get her into Lancashire, had there not?
I cannot call it an Attempt; she had been told repeatedly that she and her Family were fit Objects for Migration, and that she would be much benefited by going there, but no Attempt had been made to reduce her Allowance so as to oblige her to go there.

Had that been mentioned to her by the Board?
Yes; I have mentioned the Advantage it would be of to her when I was in the Chair.

She continued to refuse it?
Yes.

Can you venture to say that was not taken into Consideration?
I have already stated that it was taken into Consideration, but as regards going into Lancashire that alone was not the Reason.

Was it Part of the Reason?
It may possibly have been Part of the Reason, connected with the other Circumstances from which it is impossible to disconnect it, namely, that it was considered that she was a Person who did not do all she could to maintain herself and Family.

Was it understood that if she did all she could she could have maintained herself and Family?
I have not the least Hesitation in saying that I consider that Susan Ling, with her Children at home, could have maintained her Family there according to the Way in which Parties are living in our Country.

Some of the Reasons above alluded to may have weighed with some Members of the Board, others with others of them?
In stating that those were the Reasons which operated upon the Board, I can of course only state it was my Impression, sitting in the Chair, that those were their Motives.

Are you in the habit of stopping the Allowance of Persons, in any Degree, upon the Consideration of their having refused to migrate?
Certainly not; such a thing would be unheard of.

Still you have stated that one of the Reasons for taking off this Allowance was, that her going into Lancashire had been pressed upon her several Times by the Board of Guardians; that you thought her a fit Subject to go, and she refused?
I have stated that that was one Circumstance, connected with others which probably weighed with some Members of the Board, inducing them to think she was a fit Subject to be put into the House.

The Board of Guardians having pressed this upon her?
I did not state that.

The Board of Guardians having suggested to her that she ought to migrate into Lancashire, and that Allowance being afterwards stopped, was it not natural for the Woman herself to suppose that her Refusal to go was the Ground for stopping the Allowance?
Inasmuch as she had been recommmended several Times by the Board to go, I think she might have connected that with the Stoppage; but she was at the same Time informed, that we thought she did not do all she might to support herself and Family.

She was told that she and her Family, with the Aid of those who were grown up, could do without Relief if they tried; she complained, and said she could not do that, but at the same Time said she was not well off, and it was suggested to her, If you are not well off, and cannot do better here, you can do better by going into Lancashire?
Yes.

Was the going into Lancashire pressed upon her more strongly than that?
Certainly not. The Migration was represented to us by the Poor Law Commissioners

missioners to be extremely advantageous to the Poor, and we stated to them, when they came before the Board, the great Advantage they would derive from going; nothing further. *J. P. Barclay, Esq.*

Was such a Course as that recommended to you by the Poor Law Commissioners in London?
I cannot recollect whether there was any Communication from the Board.

How is it recommended?
There is a Report by Dr. Kay, in which it is recommended.

Is there any thing in the Reports of the Poor Law Commissioners recommending the Course you pursued with this Woman, namely, recommending her to migrate into Lancashire?
Yes; in the Second Annual Report of the Poor Law Commissioners, Page 49 of the Octavo Edition, I find, "No. 2. Circular Letter on the Migration of Labourers, October 23d, 1835."

Addressed to whom?
Addressed to the Clerk of the Board of Guardians, and it appears to be signed, "By Order of the Board, Edwin Chadwick, Secretary."

In that Letter the Poor Law Commissioners say, "The Board desire to impress upon the Guardians the Importance of great Care in the Selection of the first Families sent, as upon their good Behaviour and Success will most probably depend the Demand for the Labour of others from the same District. The Guardians of the Union should themselves examine the Parties who may express a Willingness to migrate, and endeavour to ascertain, through the Relieving Officer of the District, what are their Characters, and what may have been their previous Habits." That is a very different Thing from a Board of Guardians holding out to them that they were proper Subjects to migrate, and giving them the least Reason to suppose that the Amount of their Allowance is in the least affected by their Willingness or otherwise to migrate?
I am perfectly aware of the Difference, but I deny that any such Idea was ever held out to her by the Board of Guardians.

You are understood to say, that when this Woman appeared before the Board of Guardians a Discussion arose as to her Allowance, and that it was suggested to her that she was a proper Person to migrate into Lancashire?
I have stated that.

Do not you think that that must have operated upon her Mind when you were discussing her Allowance? Do not you suppose that she conceived that that would be dealt with with reference to her Consent or Refusal to go into Lancashire?
It might or might not.

You do not conceive it to be a necessary Consequence that she should draw that Inference?
I do not; but I do not know whether, standing here as a Witness, I am entitled to draw an Inference.

Do you think that any such Conduct would necessarily have the Effect upon the Person in question of making her suppose that that was one of the Circumstances referred to by those who were deciding on the Allowance she should have?
I can only say, as before, that it might or might not; I cannot go further than that.

Is it not a common Practice with the Board of Guardians to say to Persons who come to them for Relief, We will afford you Relief up to a certain Extent, and if you want Relief beyond that you must come into the Workhouse?
That is common.

Would it not occur to you very naturally, if a Person said she could not support herself on her Allowance, to suggest her going into Lancashire, where she could obtain more?
I apprehend that would have been very kind to her.

J. P. Barclay, Esq.

Was it not the natural Inference that she would be compelled to take the Advice of taking herself and Family into Lancashire?

I think, on further Recollection of the Date, that the Opinion of the Board of Guardians regarding Lancashire had been very materially altered by July 1837, and that we were not at all anxious at that Time that poor People should go there; in fact, as far as I can trust myself as to Dates, if Susan Ling had been desirous to go there at that Time the Board of Guardians would have hesitated much to comply with her Desire.

Why?

Because Matters had changed in the North.

This Woman has stated in a Paper signed by herself the following Circumstance: "The Relieving Officer has been continually teasing her to go into Lancashire; for the first Year of the new Poor Law he asked her Eight Wednesdays out of Nine if she had made up her Mind to go; and the Board, as well as the Relieving Officer, were constantly teasing and coaxing her to go, telling her that she and her Family might earn 20*s.* or 30*s.* per Week there, &c., &c., and when she would not consent then threatened to send her into the Prison Workhouse, to try if that would not alter her Mind about going away; but she always told them she would not; if they sent her to the Workhouse she must go in and submit to it, for she would not consent to go away; but they never gave her an Order till now." Is there any Truth in that Statement?

It is extremely difficult for me to answer. That Statement is so coloured and mixed up, it is almost impossible for me to answer yes or no.

Mixed up with what?

Truth and Falsehood.

What Part is false?

The coaxing. It is very unlikely that any Board of Guardians would "coax" a Pauper; I am quite sure in our Union we never coax a Pauper.

Are you sure you never said any thing to induce her to go away?

Certainly. Neither the threatening nor the coaxing her is true; some of the other Part has Truth in it; I can scarcely answer it in so wholesale a Way.

There has been Conversation at the Board between the Board and the Woman respecting her going into Lancashire?

Yes.

And Persuasion has been used with her for that Purpose?

Certainly; a Degree of Persuasion.

Was not it rather Recommendation than Persuasion?

That is a very nice Distinction. It was Recommendation, and so far Persuasion; the Woman was told she might do very well in Lancashire, and was recommended to go there.

Will you turn to the Passage, and state how far it is true?

"The Relieving Officer has been continually teasing her to go into Lancashire;" to that Part I beg to state that the Relieving Officer is in attendance. "For the first Year of the new Poor Law he asked her Eight Wednesdays out of Nine if she had made up her Mind to go;" I know nothing of that. "The Board, as well as the Relieving Officer, were constantly teasing and coaxing her to go;" there was a Period after which we should not have wished she might be sent, and consequently it could hardly apply to that. As to teasing her, the Board of Guardians have something else to do than to tease the Paupers; and coaxing them is not the usual Way of treating them. "Telling her that she and her Family might earn 20*s.* or 30*s.* a Week there;" that is true. "&c., &c;" I cannot answer. "And when she would not consent then threatened to send her into the Prison Workhouse;" if that is meant to imply that the Board of Guardians called the Workhouse a Prison, they certainly never did.

Take

Take it that she meant the Workhouse?

"Then threatened to send her into the Prison Workhouse;" there is such a Mixture of Truth and Falsehood I cannot separate them; she did not consent to go to Lancashire, and she had an Order for the Workhouse. The Statement connecting these Facts together creates an Inference which I believe to be false.

On the Day on which you gave her the Order for the Workhouse had there been any Attempt to persuade her to go into Lancashire?

That I cannot say; she had been repeatedly spoken to; I cannot say whether it occurred that Day. "To try if that would not alter her Mind about going away;" that I believe to be false. "But she always told them that she would not;" that is true.

Did she often tell them that she would not?

Yes; she was often before us.

Then the Subject was often mentioned?

Yes. "If they sent her to the Workhouse she must go in and submit to it, for she would not consent to go away;" she might or might not have said that; I cannot say. "But they never gave her an Order till now;" that is true.

Did she come into the Workhouse?

No; I think she never came in.

She therefore maintained herself out of it?

Yes. I have already stated that I consider her perfectly able to maintain herself and Family, and I do not hesitate now to state to your Lordships that I think it was rather an Act of Compassion on the Part of the Board of Guardians than of Duty to relieve her at all.

Your Opinion is, that she was enabled, by the Assistance of her Family, to maintain herself out of the Workhouse without Relief?

If the Family and herself had acted as the Families of others of their Class of Life, I conceive she never ought to have been a Pauper at all; but that is my Opinion, not the Opinion of the Board of Guardians.

Then if you suggested to her that there might be greater Earnings obtained in some other Part of England, that was as Matter of Kindness; you were of opinion she could have maintained herself out of the Workhouse?

Yes, certainly; it would have been much more easy for her to maintain herself and Family in Lancashire, as we believe, than she could have done in Suffolk.

It was not an Opinion given privately by yourself, that she should go into Lancashire, but given by the Board of Guardians, you sitting as Chairman?

Not by myself only, but by the Guardians sitting round.

By the Board?

Yes.

The Board concurred with you in Opinion that she was able to maintain herself, even without Relief?

No; I presume from the Board making an Order for Relief that they did not entertain the same Opinion that I, sitting in the Chair, did. I believed that she was able to maintain herself without Relief, and therefore should not have consented to give her Relief. The Board evidently were of a different Opinion, inasmuch as they gave her Relief.

Did they continue to give her Relief?

They did; I can state the Orders. She did not avail herself, as I have stated, of the Order for the Workhouse. In the Eighth Week, which was the next Tuesday, Susan Ling came to the Board again, and it appears that no Order of any Kind was made for her. On the Thirteenth Week, which would be the last Week but One in September, she came again, and the Memorandum made in the Book by me is, "Rather unwell," and she was ordered One Stone of Flour and 1*s.* 6*d.* per Week for a Fortnight; this is my Writing. I should not have entered "Rather unwell" if she had been returned as ill on the Medical Report.

J. P. Barclay, Esq.

In the Interval, she had maintained herself out of the Workhouse without Relief?
Certainly.

Will you proceed to the next Order?
She appears again in the Second Week of the subsequent Quarter, at the End of the Fortnight.

What did she get then?
A Stone of Flour per Week; that lasted for a Fortnight, and then the Fourth Week she appeared again, and she then got Two Stone of Flour.

Has that continued from that Time to this?
It has up to the End of the last Quarter.

Is it continued now?
She has it, I presume, now.

From the Seventh to the Thirteenth Week of that Quarter in that Year, 1837, was Harvest Time, was it not?
Yes; the Five Weeks of Harvest would be about that Time.

During that Time she could earn something in the Field, or by gleaning?
Gleaning would be the principal Thing she would do at that Time.

Therefore she would be better able to support herself out of the House at that Time than at other Times of the Year?
Yes. My own Opinion of her Case is, I think she was equally well able to support herself and her Family, living as a Family together, at any Time.

If she required Relief she would require Relief less at that Time, while gleaning was going on, than any other, probably?
Yes; she might have something to do, but gleaning is hardly Earnings; it takes some Time to get it converted into Money or into Flour.

Was this Family a well conducted Family?
I know nothing of that; I can state more about the Family as regards Circumstances, having an Extract from a Letter written to me by Mr. Hillen, whose Name has occurred in my Examination; he is a Farmer, and what we call a public Man, a Land Valuer. In order to give your Lordships some Information with respect to her Means of maintaining her Family, I applied to him for the Account of their Earnings during the Time they worked with him; the Result is, "Hillen's Payments to Susan Ling and her Family, from the 1st of January 1836 to May 1838,—I think it was the 14th of May,—were, for Susan, John, Abraham, Bathsheba, David, Mark, and Mary Ann, 25*l.* 10*s.*; this was for the Children only.

How much for the Widow?
Nothing.

Does it include the Wages of Joseph?
No. William Ling earned from Mr. Hillen from April 1837 to Michaelmas of the same Year 6*l.* 5*s.*; he then left until May 1838, and Mr. Hillen made some Inquiries from the Party, William Ling, and ascertained as nearly as he could that he had earned during that Period from Messrs. Barthrop and Durham 7*l.* 10*s.* I have learned since from another Quarter that he was in the habit of attending Lambs. From May 1836 to April 1837 he was not boarding with his Mother, but he worked somewhere for his Board; he was not boarding with his Mother when he was with Mr. Barthrop, but he was boarding with his Mother when he was with Mr. Durham. Mr. Hillen's Account regarding Joseph Ling during the same Period, from the 1st of January 1836 to May 1838, is, that Joseph Ling did Two Harvests for him, for which he got 11*l.* 10*s.*; he states also that he goes regularly to the Mackerel and Herring Fishery; the Mackerel Fishery begins on the 1st of May, and lasts Six Weeks, and the Herring Fishery begins in October, and lasts Eight Weeks; we reckon those equal to Two Harvests. The Mackerel Fishing, will net a Man, according to his Take, Three, Four, Five, and Six Pounds; and the Herring Fishery will net him Five, Six, Seven, Eight, Nine, or Ten Pounds, according to Circumstances.

Do you mean that *5l.* is the lowest?
Yes.

Are they put to much Expense for Nets?
No; the Nets are provided by the Man who takes the Gang.

Are they at their own Expense on board the Vessels, or kept?
I cannot charge my Recollection precisely, but I should apprehend they are kept; for when it is said to them that they have made a good deal of Money at the Herring Fishery, they will say, We have to pay a great deal for Clothes, and they do not mention Board. Mr. Newson, the Bailiff of the Estate of Mr. Sheppard, stated to me that he could not give an Account of Joseph Ling's Earnings, except for the present Year, his Accounts being in the Court of Chancery, but that for the last Six Months he earned about *7l.*, and that partly for draining and other Matters. Mr. Hillen states that when Joseph Ling did not work for him he generally worked for Mr. Newson.

During that Period was he living under the Roof of his Mother?
I believe that Joseph Ling is reckoned a worthy young Man, a very good young Man, always living with his Mother.

Can you speak to the Earnings of Susan or Jane or Hannah?
Hannah is married, and has Three Children; Susan works when at home generally for Mr. Hillen for about *7d.* a Day, and I see she is one of those named in the Account.

Did she live with her Mother?
Yes.

Jane?
Jane is a Servant out.

In what Sort of Service?
At the Time of the Examination in 1835 she was a Servant at the Lunatic Asylum.

At the Time you made her the Allowance of Two Stone of Flour and *2s.* did you know the Circumstances of the Family to the Extent you do now?
Not the same; but it was known that this Family being all about her, and of an Age to earn, and, as we heard, generally employed, she was most likely capable, with the Assistance of her Family, of maintaining herself.

After her Allowance was stopped how came the Guardians to order her Relief again?
Because, I believe, that the Plomesgate Union is about the most good-natured Board, with regard to Widows, there is in England.

Were there others of the Guardians who agreed in your View of the Case, that she could do without Relief?
I cannot recollect whether there were any Divisions on the Case, but I think it is extremely probable.

Do you recollect her being ordered to go and sit up with a sick Woman, and the Manner in which she replied?
I think I remember something of the Kind, but not sufficient to state the Circumstances; the Relieving Officer can state them.

Was there ever any Conversation on that Subject at the Board?
Not to my Recollection.

You do not recollect any Discussion in consequence of a Representation on her Part that she could not do it?
I do not remember any thing of the Kind, but there may have been.

You know this Woman personally?
Yes.

Has she the Appearance of being a Person greatly distressed or greatly in Want?
She is a very hearty, rather fat-looking Woman; and notwithstanding all this

J. P. Barclay, Esq.

this large Family, any one would say she was perfectly capable of any Work. We know that her Temper is not by any Means agreeable; she remonstrates very freely with the Board of Guardians when she comes before them.

Did she come tolerably clothed?
Yes, very fairly.

She does not probably put on her best Clothes to come to the Board?
No; I can answer for that in most Cases.

Do you know her Cottage?
No; I think I have received Rent for her Cottage lately.

From whom?
By means of Joseph Ling, from Mr. Hillen.

Do you know the Rent?
Four Pounds a Year.

Is there a Garden to it?
I cannot say.

When you entered her as rather unwell on the Thirteenth Week of the Third Quarter of 1837, do you recollect what was supposed to be her Illness?
I should imagine, from my making an Entry of that Kind in the "Abstract Book," that it was not upon the Medical Report, but that we took it from her saying so.

You have no Recollection what her Illness was supposed to have arisen from?
No; I should strongly suspect from my Memorandum that I did not believe her.

Whatever your Impression was you have entered it as "Rather unwell"?
Yes; I presume I did not believe that she was unwell, or I should not have so entered it.

You have stated that Susan Ling would have been able to support her Family if she had used due Exertions?
No; I have not so stated.

Have you not stated that she ought never to have been a Pauper?
Yes.

What are your Grounds for stating that?
Because I believed that she could, had she made proper Exertions, have supported her Family.

Is Susan Ling an industrious Person?
I have already stated that I know nothing of her beyond the Facts I have already mentioned.

Do you not consider it to be Part of your Duty, as Deputy Chairman of the Board of Guardians, to make Inquiries as to the Conduct or Character, the Industry or Idleness, of the Applicants?
It is the Duty of the Guardians to satisfy themselves of the Pauperism of the Party, but I am not aware that it is the Duty of the Deputy Chairman of the Board of Guardians particularly to make any particular Inquiries.

Does your Board not make Inquiry as to the Character of the Person applying in any Case?
From the Parties themselves?

Either from the Parties themselves or any other Source?
Undoubtedly they make all Manner of Inquiries. It is the Duty of the Guardians and the Practice of the Guardians to ask all Manner of Questions which may elicit the Pauperism of the Party; some will put Questions as to Character, others not, according to their Feeling; I think Character has nothing to do with the Matter.

Have

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Have you any Doubt that the Relieving Officer collected the fullest Information upon that Subject, and laid it before the Board?

We never make any Order at the Board for the Relief of a Pauper but after a personal Examination of the Pauper, unless he be too unwell or infirm to come to the Board, consequently we do not rely upon the Representations of the Relieving Officer; but we question the Relieving Officer after the Examination of the Pauper, and he states that which has come to his Knowledge.

Do you require the Relieving Officer to make the fullest Inquiry into the Circumstances?

Undoubtedly; that is the Duty of the Relieving Officer who brings forward the Case.

If the Guardian of the Parish to which the Person belongs is present, you institute Inquiry from him to confirm the Relieving Officer, do you not?

Frequently.

It is the most convenient Mode for you as Chairman or Vice Chairman to obtain Information?

Yes.

That Practice you adopt?

Yes; but we rely principally upon the Examination of the Pauper himself.

You say that in your Opinion their Characters should have nothing to do with the Relief given or otherwise?

That is my Opinion.

Is it the Practice of your Board to omit inquiring into the Characters of the Persons who come to you for Relief?

Certainly not. I believe I stated myself to stand almost alone in Opinion; but few of the Guardians will support me in that, their Opinion being in most Cases that Character should be considered; and generally the Guardians of our Board look a good deal to Character, though my Opinion as Chairman, and often impressed upon them, is, that Character has nothing at all to do with the Matter, that Destitution is all we have to do with.

Do you not consider that Character does affect the Credibility you would attach to them, but not the Relief?

Yes; if a Person is a Person of bad Character that will affect his Statement; in the one Case I should feel it necessary to cross-examine the Party, in the other I should consider him as stating the Truth.

Do you consider Industry or Idleness to have no Reference to Character?

I beg Pardon; I do not understand the Question.

Do you not consider it one Ingredient, whether a Man is industrious or idle, and do you not think it your Duty to inquire into that?

No; that has nothing to do with my Duty when a Person comes before me and says he is destitute.

Do you think that Relief should be given to the same Extent, or in the same Mode, to an idle as to an industrious Person?

If that Person is destitute I must give him what will maintain him; whether he is industrious or idle, I consider to be entirely beside the Mark; right or wrong, I am now stating my own Opinions only, but on Oath.

What is the Practice of your Board of Guardians upon that Subject?

When I answer this I wish to guard myself; I can only state my Inference from their Conduct at the Board, that they do take Character into Consideration, but I cannot venture upon my Oath to state that that is their Motive.

Then you mean to say that it is the Practice of the Board of Guardians to vary the Amount of Relief with reference to the Character of the Individual?

No; but if they had before them a Person known to be an industrious Man,

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he would run the Chance of having a more liberal Relief than a Man who was not industrious.

In the Mode in which you administer Relief you would give no further than was sufficient to relieve the Destitution?
Yes; that would be my Course.

With respect to the Man's Character, you would make no Difference between the Man whose Misfortunes arose from his own Misconduct and the Man in whose Case they arose from Circumstances over which he had no Control?
I consider that the Punishment of Vice or the Reward of Virtue is not the Business of a Board of Guardians. If a Man comes before a Board of Guardians in a State of Want it is their Business to measure his Want, and to relieve it, whether it has been occasioned by his own Fault or not.

Would not the Principle upon which you acted be a very great Encouragement to Improvidence on the one Part, and a direct Discouragement to Industry on the other?
I think not, because I state it to be Destitution, and Destitution only.

Destitution arising from different Causes, then, would put all on the same Footing?
I consider that I have no Right to inquire into the Causes of Destitution. If a Party appears before the Board of Guardians in Want, it is the Function of the Board of Guardians to administer to his Want, and, administering the Fund of the Rate-payers, not to give him more than will relieve his Wants. If the Guardian makes a Difference he must either be unjust to the Man by not giving him sufficient to relieve his Wants, or he must be unjust to the Rate-payers by giving him more. I wish that the Board of Guardians acted upon that; I think they do not; I think they are a most compassionate Board of Guardians.

If such a Principle were acted on, would not an Encouragement to Improvidence and Idleness be held out in the Administration of Charity?
Begging your Lordships Pardon, I do not consider it has any thing to do with Charity; I consider it Matter of Police.

Do you think you have a Right to put your Hand into another Man's Pocket, and relieve the Wants of a Man because his Character has been good?
No; it is upon that Ground I state, that I should think it unjust, because a Man's Character has been good, to give him more than was requisite.

Do not you think an industrious Man would be much less likely to want Relief than a Man of bad Character?
Generally speaking, that is the Case; but a Man who has Sinews may get more of some Kinds of Work than a Man of better Character not so strong.

Taking them as equal, the Man of good Character would be less likely to fall into Pauperism than the Man of bad Character?
Certainly.

Would your Board of Guardians give the same Relief to a Man who was extravagant as to one of economical Habits?
I am uncertain; I cannot tell whether they would or not; I can only answer as before, that they are very likely not to give as much to a Man of bad Character as to a Man of good Character.

The Question refers to a Man of extravagant or economical Habits; do your Board of Guardians make any Distinction in that respect?
That is a Question which I cannot answer; I cannot say what they would do.

You have stated that it would have been a great Advantage to the Family of Ling to go into Lancashire; are you aware that it would also have been of great Advantage to the Parish?
Certainly; that is a Matter of Arithmetic; it must necessarily have been so.

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How do you know that it would have been of great Advantage to the Family to have gone into Lancashire?

I have already stated that I believed it would be of great Advantage for that Family to go into Lancashire; I believe the Accounts we had of Lancashire were perfectly correct.

You had no personal Knowledge upon the Subject?

I never was in Lancashire.

Was the Board of Guardians induced by the Prospect of Advantage to the Family or to the Parish to recommend so frequently the Family going into Lancashire?

I can only speak of my own Motive.

What was your own Motive?

That the Removal would be most likely for the Benefit of the Family as well as for the Benefit of the Parish.

Is there any Rule by which your Board of Guardians make an Allowance?

I am glad that Question is put; I shall be happy to state on what Principle we make our Allowance. When we first became a Board of Guardians we naturally felt considerable Difficulty how to settle the Allowances; finding that Difficulty I made Inquiry regarding the old Allowances. I found that the Parish Officers of Framlingham had been in the habit for many Years of using a certain Scale of Allowance under the old Poor Law. In the Year 1834, or, I rather think, early in the Year 1835, the Poor Law Commissioners recommended the Substitution of Relief partly in Kind and partly in Money for Relief wholly in Money; I, being a Member of the Select Vestry at Wickham Market, proposed that we should adopt that Mode of Relief, but not knowing exactly what it was usual to give where Relief was partly in Flour and partly in Money I could not bring forward any thing in the Shape of a Scale. Mr. Lewin, who was an efficient Member of the Select Vestry, and Manager of Parochial Affairs in Wickham Market, produced a Scale, and it is written in the Book in his Handwriting. I had that Wickham Scale and the Framlingham Scale printed on Slips of Paper, one of which I gave to each Member of the Board, the Board of Guardians being cautioned particularly (generally speaking, by myself) not to adopt that as a Scale, but merely as a a Hint to them what Relief it was proper to give.

The same is delivered in, and read, and is as follows:

PLOMESGATE UNION, SUFFOLK.

	Framlingham Allowance.		Wickham Allowance.	
	Flour.	Money.	Flour.	Money.
	Stone.	*s. d.*	*Stone.*	*s. d.*
Young Woman	—	—	$0\frac{1}{2}$	0 6
Young Man	—	—	$0\frac{3}{4}$	0 9
Single Man	—	—	$0\frac{3}{4}$	1 0
Old Man	$0\frac{3}{4}$	1 10	—	—
Old Woman	—	—	$0\frac{1}{2}$	1 6
Man and Wife	1	2 9	$1\frac{1}{4}$	1 6
Ditto and One Child	$1\frac{1}{4}$	2 7	$1\frac{1}{3}$	1 9
Ditto and Two Children	$1\frac{5}{4}$	2 4	2	2 0
Ditto and Three Children	2	2 5	$2\frac{1}{2}$	2 3
Ditto and Four Children	$2\frac{1}{4}$	2 6	$2\frac{3}{4}$	2 6
Ditto and Five Children	$2\frac{1}{2}$	2 7	3	2 9
Ditto and Six Children	$2\frac{5}{8}$	2 8	$3\frac{1}{4}$	3 0
Ditto and Seven Children	3	2 9	$3\frac{1}{2}$	3 0
Ditto and Eight Children	$3\frac{1}{4}$	2 10	—	—

Flour then 1*s.* 8*d.* per Stone.

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Do you know what the weekly Earnings of Susan Ling were?
I know nothing of them; I know nothing beyond the Inquiries I have made, and I do not know that she earned a Halfpenny.

What are your Reasons for thinking she ought never to have been a Pauper?
I have stated those Reasons already. Those Reasons are, that her Family was such as might with due Diligence have obtained Employment sufficient to maintain the whole of them.

Employment during the Whole of the Year, or a certain Part of the Year?
The Employment of the Children, being principally in Agricultural Employment, is of course occasional.

You know nothing further than that you state with respect to the Earnings of the Family?
No.

You know nothing respecting her Industry or Idleness?
No; I never saw her but at the Board; I know nothing further but by Report.

Did the Relieving Officer make Reports respecting her?
I dare say he has mentioned something about her, but I do not recollect what it was.

Joseph Ling appears to have been in the habit of earning considerable Wages?
I think he must have earned much more than the ordinary Wages of a Labourer.

He was a dutiful Son?
He has always been represented to me as paying his Mother's Rent, and to have been a dutiful Son.

You think he would have been always ready to assist her?
I believe he has assisted her, according to the Reports I have received, but there are other Causes of Destitution. The Relieving Officer will be better able to state those.

Do you know a Woman of the Name of Jane Grayston?
Yes.

This Woman keeps a Beer House, does not she?
Lately it has been a Beer House, I believe.

Her Allowance was stopped in the present Month, was not it?
Yes; I have a Recollection of her coming to the Board.

When she came upon that Occasion was not there something said to her about who paid the Guinea for the Licence for a Beer Shop?
I do not recollect that.

Were you there when she came?
I recollect being there perfectly, once lately.

Was there any Conversation about the Licence, and who paid for it, and did not she refuse to tell you the Name?
I have not a Recollection of it; it may have occurred; we have sometimes Sixty or Seventy Persons to examine there.

Was there no violent Conversation passed between the Board and her?
Yes; as she left the Room she was very violent.

State what you recollect of the Circumstances?
As far as I recollect, she came in and answered very sharply to all the Questions which were put to her.

Did you tell her to go into the Workhouse, or what did the Board say to her?
She got an Order for the House on the Fourth Week of this present Quarter.

That

That is the Time you were present?
Yes.

What happened?
She appeared again on the Seventh Week. I was not there.

When she got the Order to go into the Workhouse what passed?
My Recollection amounts only to this, that she came into the Room; I asked several Questions, which she answered very flippantly; and as she went out she told us that she would be off, and that we should have all her Children to keep; that is all that I recollect.

Will you listen to her Account, and state how far that is true: "Then she had the 2*s.* per Week again, with the Flour, till last Tuesday, when she was ordered to the Board, and they asked her who paid the Guinea for her she had paid for a Licence to sell Beer. She told them she was not at liberty to mention the Person's Name, and they sent her out and ordered her in again, and repeated the Question, and she answered the same again. They then asked if she could keep her Five Children; she said, No, she could not; they then said, 'Then here is an Order for you, and you may come into the Workhouse next Saturday,' and she said, 'No, Gentlemen, I shall not.' They then said they would have none of her Sauce. 'Go out.' She said 'I know what you all are,—a Pack of Villains,' and tore their Order all to Atoms. Barclay said, 'Go out,' and 'Get out;—go along with you.'" Do you recollect any Conversation of that Kind taking place with her at any Time,—her tearing an Order to Pieces, and so on?
I think it is extremely likely that she tore the Order; that has repeatedly occurred to us; I think from my Recollection of her Manner it is extremely likely she might have done so.

Do you recollect her saying the Words "None of your Sauce,—Pack of Villains"?
No; I recollect no Language of that Kind.

Do you think if it passed you should have forgotten it?
I have not any Recollection of it, but it might have occurred with an impudent Pauper, and I might not have recollected it, for we are accustomed to being abused by impudent Paupers.

Do you know the Woman personally?
I have some Recollection of her Person.

When she came before the Board lately did you recollect having seen her before?
Yes.

Do you recollect having seen her last Year?
On the First Week of the Quarter ending the 29th September 1837 it appears that Jane Graystone came before the Board, and was ordered Two Stone and a Half of Flour and 1*s.* 6*d.*, Mr. Shuleham being then in the Chair. In the Seventh Week of the Quarter ending the 25th December she appeared again, and was ordered Two Stone and a Half of Flour till the Spring.

Was there any Order given for going into the House?
No. On the Twelfth Week of that same Quarter Jane Graystone appeared again, because she was on the Medical List, when she had Two Stone and a Half of Flour and 2*s.* ordered; and until the Period referred to in this present Quarter she did not appear again.

You do not remember any Conversation of the Kind referred to taking place between you and the Woman?
No.

Have you been in the habit of being present when the Relieving Officer was paying the Paupers at Wickham Market?
During the first Year, or a large Portion of the first Year, I made a point of attending when the Paupers were being paid.

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Did you on any Occasion, of your own Authority, order the Relieving Officer to alter that Relief which had been settled by the Board?
Certainly not.

Therefore, if anybody has stated that you had done so, and that the Relieving Officer has in consequence of that Order decreased the Relief ordered by the Board, that is not a true Statement?
Certainly not; the Relieving Officer, I would beg to state, in some Instances, as Parties have come before him, has inquired into their Earnings during the Week, and made a Deduction, and reported that to the Board; I do not know whether it has occurred at Wickham Market.

The Question refers to the Time the Relief was being paid at Wickham Market. You did not take upon yourself to direct the Relieving Officer to decrease the Amount ordered by the Board?
Certainly not.

Do you know a Woman called Widow Smith?
I do. I have no Information regarding the Circumstances stated with regard to her, except from the Relieving Officer; I have the whole of the Circumstances of her Relief.

What Allowance had she under the old Poor Law?
Her Statement made on the 27th of November 1835 is, that she has had 6*s.* weekly.

What have been the Orders about her?
I can state them from the Books.

Do you know the Number of her Family?
I have the Description extracted from the Books; I have her Examination, 27th November 1835: — "Ann Smith, 27th November 1835, Widow, Age Forty, Six Children; — James, Twenty-one, in London, Servant; Ann, Twenty, married Journeyman Bricklayer; Jemima, Seventeen, at home; earns nil; Harriet, Thirteen, ditto; John, Eleven; earns nil; 4*d.* last Week; Charles, Nine, ditto; goes to the Fields; earned 1*s.* 6*d.* last Week, 1*s.* this Week; works for Mr. Ferrand. Her Father is Peck, somewhere in London; Husband's Father is a Pauper; Rent 3*l.* Jemima Smith, Daughter of the above, Age Eighteen; is not well enough for Service; has never lived a Year in One Place; left in ill Health; has had 1*s.* 6*d.*; ordered Half a Stone of Flour; offered the House." On the 9th August 1836:—"Ann Smith, Widow, Age Forty: Seventeen, Jemima, at Ipswich, in Service; Thirteen, Harriet, at home, doing nothing; Eleven, John, no Work; Ten, Charles, ditto; does Field Work herself, but has not had any Seven Weeks; Father a Groom in London; Rent 3*l.*; no Garden. She was in London Nine Weeks ago; she went with her Sister, who paid her Expenses; her Sister is Wife to Mr. Rowley's Coachman. She applied for Migration, but when Work was obtained she refused, as her Two Children were gone to Service. Ordered the House."

Did she accept the Order for the House?
I cannot pretend to say. On the 13th of September 1836 she appeared again:—"Widow, aged Forty, with Two Children; offered good Wages if she would migrate, but she refused. Ordered the House again. 15th November 1836:—Offered good Wages if she would migrate, but refused. Ordered the House."

Probably she did not come in at any of those Times?
I should think not.

When you say you offered her good Wages if she would migrate, do you mean that you reported to her what Wages she could get?
Yes; the Course of Migration was this: we got the Examination of the Parties, and sent it up to the Poor Law Commissioners, who sent it to their Agent in Lancashire; it was sent back. If the Masters were willing to make a Contract for the Family, so much for the First Year, so much for the Second, and so much for the Third, then we sent the People, through the Agent in London, into Lancashire.

So

So that you were able to offer those Wages with Certainty?
We knew them beforehand. On the 3d of January 1837 follows: "Went to Ipswich to see her Sister; 15th, Harriet, worked at Mr. Hillen's up to the Frost at 6*d.* a Day."

Supposing that Contracts were made, and supposing that Misfortunes occur in the Manufacturing Districts, has it happened that smaller Wages have been given from Time to Time than were originally contracted for?
I do not hesitate to say, that we considered the Migration to have been a Failure, and that from Misfortunes to the Employers they have put the Labourers upon Half Work, which we at the Board considered a Breach of Contract; but the Cases in which that has occurred have been few. I believe some Migrants have done well. Some have come Home. "John was at work at Mr. Miller's One Week; Charles works at Mr. Debridge's at 3*d.* per Day; Harriet has not heard of her Mother since she went to Ipswich. Ann Smith is not of a good Character." Again, in 1837, "She was at her Daughter's, Ann Barker of Ipswich, whose Husband is a Bricklayer; Jemima at Mr. Dunningham's, Lower Brook Street; Charles only at work at 3*d.* per Day: Ordered One Stone of Flour." Then the Relief received by her has been as follows: "In 1836, First Quarter, she received in Money 19*s.* 6*d.*, in Kind 1*l.* 9*s.* 3*d.*; Second Quarter, in Money 11*s.*, in Kind 1*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.*; Third Quarter, in Money 7*s.* 6*d.* in Kind, 16*s.* 6*d.*; she thenceforth received no more Money. In the Fourth Quarter she received nothing. In 1837, First Quarter, she received in Kind 1*l.* 9*s.*; Second Do. 1*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.*; Third Do. 1*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.*; Fourth Do. 1*l.* 6*s.* 10*d.* In 1838, First Quarter, 1*l.* 18*s.* 2*d.*"

Do you know any thing about her Father?
I know nothing about his Circumstances except what I have heard from the Relieving Officer.

Do you recollect her mentioning that she had a Father of the Age of Ninety who was lying at the Point of Death?
I remember only her being at the Board one Day, and considering that she was a very fresh-looking Person for her Time of Life; but that is all I recollect.

Do you know any thing about the Circumstance of the Corn they had ground being seized?
I have already said I know nothing of those Circumstances but through the Relieving Officer.

Can you give the Committee Information with respect to Widow Cotton?
I can give the Detail of that Case I took from the Books.

Be pleased to do so?
"Hannah Cotton, Wickham Market, November 1835. B. 86.—Widow, Nine Children, viz. Samuel, Age Twenty-three, at home; Labourer; works at Mr. Blake's, not full Wages. James, Twenty; at Service. John, Sixteen; Apprentice to a Smith; earns 3*s.* 6*d.* a Week. Lydia, Nineteen; at home; done nothing since Harvest; earns nothing. Ann, Eleven; earns nothing. Hannah, Twelve; earns nothing. David, Eight. Emma, Seven. Never does any thing, nor can the Father do any thing for her. Lives in Parish House; no Rent. Ordered Two Stone of Flour and 1*s.* 6*d.* Money."

That was the Account given at the Termination of the old Poor Law?
Yes. She was examined again.

What did she get from the Parish under the old Poor Law?
She had 6*s.* 6*d.*

How many of her Children were there earning any thing?
There were Four Children chargeable upon her who were not earning any thing.

What was the Value of the Flour?
1*s.* 6*d.* a Stone by the Union Contract; it was worth 1*s.* 8*d.* to the Paupers.

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Do you know at all in that Case why you reduced her Allowance from 6*s.* 6*d.* under the old Poor Law to 4*s.* 6*d.* under the new?

I cannot state that. The Examination was gone into at large, and the Order made; I was not present at that Time. This is in the Handwriting of William Edwards, who was then our Clerk.

Do you take the Minutes yourself?

I always do when I am in the Chair. Those Minutes were taken extremely full the first Year and a Half; they have not (in consequence of the new System of Books recommended by the Poor Law Commissioners) been taken quite so full since that. Then, on the 28th March 1837, she was again examined: "Samuel, Age Twenty-four; lives with her; works for Mr. Leek; has been at Woodbridge during Winter; boards himself at his Mother's. Lydia, Twenty; is at Mr. Clarke's, nursing; gets Board and Lodging and what they give her. Ann, Twelve; Servant to Mrs. More, for nothing." She was ordered Two Stones of Flour and 6*d.* a Week in Money. In 1838, the First Quarter, the Tenth Week, Hannah Cotton received Two Stones of Flour and 2*s.* 6*d.* in Money, during the Smallpox. In the Second Quarter, Third Week Two Stones of Flour and 6*d.* Money. Lydia Cotton, her Daughter, who was living with her, had Relief during Illness; Half a Stone of Flour weekly, and afterwards Half a Stone of Flour during Smallpox, in 1838. The Relief taken by Hannah Cotton, from the 1st January 1836 up to the End of the last Quarter, was as follows: 1836, First Quarter, Money 19*s.* 6*d.*, Kind 1*l.* 19*s.* Second Quarter, Money 15*s.* 6*d.*, Kind 2*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* Third Quarter, Money 11*s.* 6*d.*, Kind 2*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.*, Fourth Quarter, Money 6*s.* 6*d.*, Kind 2*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.* In 1837, First Quarter, it remained, Money 6*s.*6*d.*, Kind 3*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.* Second Quarter, Money 6*s.* 6*d.*, Kind 2*l.* 17*s.* 5*d.* Third Quarter, Money 6*s.* 6*d.*, Kind 2*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.* Fourth Quarter, Money 6*s.* 6*d.*, Kind 3*l.* 0*s.* 8*d.* In the First Quarter of 1838 she had, Money 14*s.* 6*d.*, Kind 2*l.* 12*s.*

Were the Allowances paid weekly or quarterly?

Weekly.

Why are the Accounts then made out quarterly?

Because we post our Books and balance them quarterly.

How old is Widow Smith?

She would be Forty-two now; she was Forty at the Time of her Examination.

Did she appear in good Health?

She had every Appearance of it.

Can you state the Circumstances of the Widow Barker?

The Information I have of her, if it is Mary Barker of the Parish of Easton,—and I know no other,—is, that she resides at Wickham Market; she appears to have been regularly paid 1*s.* 3*d.* in Money and Half a Stone of Flour from the Commencement of the Union.

What did she get before the new Poor Law?

Mary Barker, aged Seventy, lives at Wickham with a Son and a Daughter; she has been ill, and confined Six Months with Rheumatism; her Son John has Two Children; her past Relief was 2*s.* 6*d.*, and the Order for Relief given her by the Union was Half a Stone of Flour and 1*s.* 3*d.*; I think at that Time that would be equivalent to 2*s.*

Has she continued to receive the same?

Apparently she has, up to the present Time. The Difference between the Contract Price and what she would have to pay Retail (for there is always a Difference) on the Half Stone of Flour would be 1½*d.* or 2*d.*, which it would be dearer to her had she bought it.

She states that she had 1*s.* 6*d.* paid her under the old Law, and that since the new Law she has had nothing?

I was quite at a Loss to know what could be meant by the Case of the Widow Barker. There is another, whose Husband has been transported, who earns an excellent Livelihood by her Needle.

What

What is the Son of this Mary Barker?
I think he is a Tailor.

Are you able to state whether any other Widow Barker has been an Applicant at the Board?
I think not; I am not aware of such a Name upon the Books;—by the by, there is another Widow Barker in Wickham Market, but in no Way connected with our Union, nor do I believe she is a Pauper. I believe she belongs to a distant Parish.

What Age is she?
She is between Sixty and Seventy, I should think.

Had she her Goods seized for Debt?
No. She is a very contented quiet Person; I never heard of her being in Distress.

If she was in Distress she would apply to the Parish in which she lived?
Yes, or to the Parish where she belonged. It has become a Custom in Suffolk to relieve a Pauper in the Parish in which he resides, and obtain Orders of Removal.

Can you speak to any other Widow Barker having made Application to you except the Person you have referred to?
I can venture to say there is no other Widow Barker who has ever applied to us for Relief except the Person I have referred to; our Indices are long, and I may have missed it, but I think I have not.

Is it your Practice to introduce on your Minutes the Case of every Applicant before the Board?
All those Cases which are investigated are entered on the List.

It is your Practice to have the Applicants before the Board?
Never to make an Order without it, unless they are too infirm to come.

In some Cases Applicants are rejected without their coming before the Board, are they not?
I never heard of a Case where the Relieving Officer, having been applied to, desired the Applicant not to come before the Board.

All Applicants have Access to the Board if they choose to come?
Provided they first apply to the Relieving Officer.

This other Widow Barker does not belong to your Union?
She does not.

If therefore she had fallen into a State of Destitution she would have made Application to the Officer of her Parish as a casual Pauper?
Yes; she might write to the Officer of the Parish to which she belonged, but the general Practice is, that the Paupers apply to the Relieving Officer of the Parish in which they reside.

You have not heard of any such Application having been made?
I have not.

Do you know a Widow of the Name of Elizabeth Green, who resides at Hucheston?
I have made Inquiry respecting her, and I found that hers was a Case relating to a distant Parish, but the Relieving Officer, I believe, will be able to give Information respecting her.

Do you know Robert Airey of Easton?
I can detail the Cases of Robert Airey, George Airey, and Benjamin Airey and Two Brothers of the Name of Wix. I went into the Parish of Easton on the Friday last, and spent some Hours with the Occupiers in inquiring into those Cases, and I am able to detail to your Lordships those Cases.

Will you take first the Case of Robert Airey?
It appears that Robert Airey was examined in March 1836, that he was then stated to be Forty-six, his Wife Forty-two, and Eight Children at home

J. P. Barclay, Esq.

"George is Fifteen, and keeps Crows for Mr. Crisp at 4*d.* a Day; John, aged Thirteen, keeps Crows for Mr. Crisp at 3*d.* a Day; Elizabeth, aged Ten, does nothing; Samuel, aged Nine, does nothing; there are Four younger Children doing nothing; Benjamin, aged Twenty-one; Eliza at Service with Mr. Catchpole. He has had no Work during the last Fortnight; he last worked for Mr. Crisp at 9*s.* a Week; his Rent is 3*l.* 10*s.*; his Wife is sickly, and has been attended by the Doctor, but not lately; his last Relief was 2*s.* 9*d.*"

That is under the old Poor Law?

Yes. He was ordered 3*s.* and Three Stone and a Half of Flour, we having then no Workhouse.

When you were speaking of keeping Crows, at what Time of the Year is that?

At all Times during Seed Time.

You employ a Labourer instead of a Scarecrow?

Yes; it is thought better. On the 7th June 1836 it appears, on another Examination, "that George his Son earns 2*s.* a Week; that he had Three Stone and a Half of Flour and 3*s.*, but he deceived Mr. Kerr by false Statements, and obtained Two Stone of Flour; nevertheless he was ordered 1*s.* and Three Stone and a Half of Flour, and One Child ordered to the House." On the 13th December 1836, on another Examination, it was stated, "He had no Relief last Week, because he was at Harvest at Mr. Crisp's; has had no Work since Saturday Week. John is at Mr. Catchpole's at 3*d.* per Day. George is now Sixteen, and is working at Mr. Crisp's at 6*d.* per Day. Work was found for him at the Union House."

How did that one Son happen to be ordered into the House?

I imagine it was as a Mode of Relief.

Was he emancipated?

No; it is said that it was One Child; I am not aware whether it was a Boy or a Girl. He was again examined on the 27th September 1836; he states, "that he has earned 18*s.* in the last Fortnight at the Union Workhouse;" which was the Work provided for him at the Union Workhouse; "that his Son John, aged Sixteen, works for Mr. Crisp at 3*s.* a Week; John, aged Fourteen, works at Mr. Catchpole's at 1*s.* 6*d.* a Week; he is an able-bodied Man. He was ordered into the House." At that Time we had a House. He was again examined in May 1837, and he then stated shortly, "that his Age was Forty-nine, his Wife Forty-four, and his Children at the Ages of Fourteen, Twelve, Ten, Eight, Five, Four, and Two Years, and an Infant; that one Child earns 2*s.* a Week; that his Man was ill, and one Man was not able to come up. He was ordered 10*s.* 5*d.*, which was given in emergency, which was confirmed, and he was ordered 2*s.* and Four Stone of Flour, which makes 8*s.* 8*d.* weekly; that the Money was to be stopped if the Man could go to work." Then follows the Relief he has received from Time to Time from January 1836 to the present Time. For the First Quarter he received no Money, and 18*s.* 8*d.* for Flour; in the Second Quarter he received 6*s.* in Money and 1*l.* 8*s.* in Kind; in the Third Quarter he received nothing, nor did he receive any thing more till the Second Quarter in 1837, when he received 1*s.* 9*d.* in Money and 17*s.* 4*d.* in Flour; and then nothing more till the First Quarter in 1838, when 2*s.* 4*d.* was given in Mutton.

Was he never taken into the House at all?

Certainly not; he never can have been in the House.

If it has been stated to the Committee that he was in the Workhouse, —"when they went for Relief they were sent to the Prison Workhouse, where they were half starved and tormented with irksome Treatment, and driven out again, and went for some Time without Work, Wages, or Food, except what their poor Friends and Neighbours gave them out of Charity, and of course they were glad to get Work." — that is not correct?

I apprehend that applies to the Two Brothers Wix and Benjamin Airey, all of whom were in the House for Three Days. Then I have the Facts I have ascertained as to his Earnings. Mr. Borrett, one of the Occupiers, makes this Report from his Books: "That he has paid him 57*l.* 11*s.* 10*d.*; Mr. Crisp 5*l.* 5*s.* 4½*d*; Mr. Stearn has paid his Wife for Stone-picking 2*l.* 10*s.*; Mr. Still has

a Boy

a Boy of Robert Airey's in his Employment at 3*d.* per Day, and has had also for some Time Samuel; also John, aged Fourteen, always in his House as Boy, and has employed the Wife in Wheat-dropping. Maria is House Servant with Mr. Plant; Eliza is House Servant with Mr. Stearn, who has employed his Wife in dropping Beans. The Occupiers state that the lowest Earnings of the Wife and Family and Man must be 15*s.* per Week since Michaelmas last." *J. P. Barclay, Esq.*

Can you state the Cases of the eldest Son of Robert Airey, and Two other young Men, aged Twenty-five and Eighteen, who, it is stated, could not get Work?

I can state the Circumstances of Benjamin Airey, the Son of Robert Airey. His Age is Twenty-one; he lived with his Father at Easton, and worked for Mr. Catchpole last at 1*s.* a Day for Three Days; he has worked with Mr. Borrett since Michaelmas; his Relief was 2*s.* 3*d.*, and he was ordered Half a Stone of Flour and 9*d.* in Money. He received in the First Quarter in 1836, 3*s.* 9*d.* in Money and 3*s.* 4*d.* in Kind, and he has received nothing since. He was at work at Mr. Borrett's in October in 1835, earned 18*s.*, but never since; he was once ordered to the House; he has since become a Soldier. Robert Wix was examined on the 26th of November 1835; his Age was Seventeen Years, he lived with his Father, James Wix, and had no Work; he worked last with Mr. Borrett, a Fortnight ago; he was ordered Half a Stone of Flour and 9*d.* in Money. The only Relief he received was in the First Quarter in 1836, when he received 6*s.* in Money and 5*s.* 4*d.* in Kind; the Relief stopped 16th February. He was ordered to be taken into the House, which he accepted for Three Days.

Do you know any thing of him after he left the House?

His Earnings paid by Mr. Borrett, from Michaelmas to November the 14th 1835, and from March 1837 to Michaelmas 1837, were 4*l.* 3*s.* Mr. Crisp paid him in March 1836, 5*s.* 9*d.*; from April to July at 10*d.*, 3*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*; Half a Man at Harvest, and Advantages, 2*l.* 11*s.* 4½*d.*; from the 5th September to the 3d December, at 1*s.*, 3*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.*; making a Total of 10*l.* 1½*d.* He is now a Servant in Mr. Hill's House, and has been from Michaelmas last at 5*l.* per Annum. Mr. Hambling had him from Spring 1835 to Michaelmas 1835.

Can you state when it was that they went into the Workhouse, and how long they remained there?

The Order was given the 17th May 1837, and they remained Three Days.

Do you know what happened to them after they left the House?

I know a good deal more of the Wixs than I have stated.

What do you know of them after they left the House?

I know a very long Story.

Do you know whether they were for some Time without Work?

I know they came and said so, and had an Order for the House.

Did they state that they were also without Food, unless what their Neighbours gave them?

That I do not know.

Do you know of one of his Brothers having been offered 2*s.* 6*d.* a Week, and accepting that?

One of the Occupiers of the Parish told me they believed that to be untrue.

Do you know of one of them having been offered 4*s.* a Week?

No.

Have you any thing more to say with respect to Robert Airey?

I went to the Occupiers and collected their Evidence respecting him, and that Evidence I will state.

What Occupiers?

The Occupiers of Land in the Parish of Easton, where Robert Airey lives. He was stated by Mr. Borrett to be nearly a regular Man of his, and that he had paid him within Two Years and a Half 58*l.*, and his Family also, some that he harvested in 1837; and that on the whole, out of the Two Years and a Half, he may have been employed by him about Two Years; that he harvested at Mr. Crisp's in 1836, and earned 5*l.* 2*s.* 9*d.*;

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that his Wife worked Two Months with Mr. Stearn, and did about 100 Loads of Stone-picking, at 6*d.* per Load; that Mr. Hill generally employs the Boy Samuel at Crow-keeping at 3*d.* a Day, the Boy being about Nine or Ten; that John was always in the House; that Maria was an Apprentice with Mr. Plant, and Eliza was an Apprentice to Mr. Stearn; that he is never out of Work; that the Wife and Four Children earn about 6*s.* at Stone-picking; that his regular Earnings were 10*s.* a Week; has had draining and Barn-work, earning most likely about 11*s.* a Week; their Earnings since Michaelmas last have averaged 15*s.*; the Wife has been employed in planting Wheat for Mr. Hill, and dropping Beans for Mr. Stearn; one Boy at Crow-keeping for Mr. Stearn, and another at Crow-keeping for Mr. Hill, and the Wife and Children were employed also in Stone-picking for Mr. Stearn. That Mr. Borrett has turned him off Once or Twice; last Winter Mr. Borrett turned him off with others, because they refused to pull Turnips in the Frost; Robert Airey is stated by the Occupiers to be rather a dissatisfied Man, and Mr. Borrett has sometimes turned him off for a Time; the Parishioners, knowing what a Burden he and his Family would be, have made a Point of employing them all since the Union; that they are great Beggars, and have been very successful, and have had a great deal of Charity from almost all the Occupiers; Robert and George Airey never worked at the same Time at any Master's except at Mr. Borrett's; all present say that no one in his Senses would turn off such Men as Robert and George Airey to take on Benjamin Airey and William Wix at Half the Price, as the latter were very middling Hands. Mr. Borrett is quite sure that he never made any such Observation as that mentioned, or any thing like it; that Robert's Wife is a very bad Manager; that the Children's Clothes are never mended. Then in respect to George Airey in 1837, he was ill and had Relief.

Can you state any thing with regard to him in June 1836?

He was ordered on the 7th of June 1836 Three Stone and a Half of Flour and 1*s.*, and the House for One Child; he deceived Mr. Kerr, and obtained Two Stone of Flour. there was one Occasion on which he obtained from the Relieving Officer, certainly for One Week, and most likely for Two Weeks, Relief as out of Work, while he was receiving 10*s.* a Week from one of the Occupiers.

Is that the Deceit to which you refer?

I am not sure whether it is the same.

Is Robert Airey a good Workman?

A very good Workman, but he is considered rather a dissatisfied Character.

Is the Account you have stated to be considered the whole of his Earnings?

I cannot say; he may possibly have had other Work; I cannot positively state that he has. I had Six of the principal Occupiers in the Room. George Airey is a quiet Fellow, and a good Labourer, perhaps the best in the Parish; his Wife was a very good Manager; the Family are always tidy, and the Children well brought up. "In January 1837 he was ill and had Relief; he was ordered the 3d of January 2*s.* and Three Stone of Flour during his Illness; he went to work in January 1837 for Mr. Crisp, and remained till the 14th of October 1837; during that Time he earned 21*l.* 10*s.* 10*d.* Mr. Borrett says he must have had One if not Two Weeks Relief while at Work. Mr. Borrett has paid him since Michaelmas 1835, 22*l.* 11*s.* 2½*d.*, and his Family 1*l.* 16*s.* 9*d.* Mr. Crisp has had One Boy, George, this Winter at 3*d.* per Day, from October 1837 to May 1838; he is there now. Mr. Stearn had him Six Months in 1836, and paid him 22*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.* In December 1837 George Airey's Rent was paid by Subscription amongst the Parishioners, which amounted to 3*l.* 13*s.* On the 7th of April 1838 Mr. Crisp paid 12*s.* 6*d.* to Airey's Wife for picking Stones, with One or Two of her Children. Mr. Stearn had Two Children singling Turnips for Three or Four Weeks in 1836; one at 3*d.*, the other at 4*d.* In 1836—7 one Girl lived with Mr. Hill for Two Years; Mr. Smith had the same Girl for a Year in 1835, and he clothed her. Mr. Plant will have had the Boy James in his House for Three Years next Michaelmas; the Wife is now with Mr. Borrett, at 3*s.* 6*d.* per Week. Mr. Stearn had him Six Months, when he had so much Taking Work that he did not earn less than 1*l.* a Week. If the Year from Michaelmas 1836 to Michaelmas 1837 is the Year in which George earned of Mr. Stearn and Mr. Crisp more Money than usual, Robert

Airey

Airey might have earned less that Year than the Year before, because he was in the Barn for Mr. Crisp, and was not so for Mr. Borrett. The Labourers in the Parish are decidedly more in Work, better contented, and altogether better off than for the last Five Years. Mr. Smith states that the Average Payment to the unemployed Poor for the Quarter was about 30*l.*; that there were frequently Seven or Eight Men out of Work in the Winter Time."

In stating the Application of one of the Paupers you stated the Rent the Pauper paid for one of the Cottages; is it the Custom in your Neighbourhood to pay the Rents of Cottages, or to assist them?
They used to be frequently paid.

You have never done that since the present Law came into operation?
Never.

Do you know any thing of the Case of John Woods?
That is not in our Union.

Do you know whether George Airey from June 1836 had been employed by Mr. Borrett?
I find Entries extracted from Mr. Borrett's Books in 1836 of a good many Payments to George Airey.

Do you know whether he discharged George Airey?
There appears to be no Entry of Wages paid him from June 1836 to April 1837.

You cannot positively state whether he discharged him or not?
I think I can state, from Mr. Borrett's Information, that he was discharged.

For what Reason?
He stated that he never discharged George Airey for any other Circumstance that he was aware of; but either that he had no Work for him to do, or in the Instance of his Refusal to pull Turnips.

Do you know whether Mr. Borrett stated that he discharged him because he could get young Men to do his Work for less?
Mr. Borrett's Expression was, that no Man in his Senses would think of discharging such a Man as George Airey to take on one of the Wixes.

The Question refers to his taking a young Man to do the Work at 9*d.* a Day?
I only know his Statement as it regards Airey and the Wixes.

That he did not discharge him in order to get young Men working for 8*d.* or 9*d.* a Day instead of him?
I have no Knowledge of the Fact, but my Impression is, that he would never dream of such a Thing; for those Families have been nursed by the Farmers in order to prevent their going to the Union House.

What do you mean by nursed by the Farmers?
They have treated them in the best possible Manner, kept them at work, and taken their Children, in order to keep them off the Parish; it is a very heavy Burden.

Have Cottage Rents fallen since the new Law?
No; I am not aware of any Alteration.

Has Mr. Lewin ever represented the Cases of any Persons whom he considered to have been hardly dealt with by the Guardians to you?
The only Instance in which any thing of that Kind took place was, that he mentioned one Pauper to me on my Return from Church one Morning, and that he put some Question, but being in a Hurry I said he had better go to the Board of Guardians; but I cannot recollect what it was.

Do you know that he has been treated by some of the Guardians in a very unhandsome Manner?
Certainly not.

Or that he has been persecuted?
No.

J. P. Barclay, Esq.

You never persecuted him?

No; I have had no Reason to do so; I am not aware that it is in my Power.

Are you a Lawyer?

I am a Solicitor; I have been at the Bar. I was a Barrister for several Years in London, and my Health failing me I was obliged to go into the Country, and am now a Solicitor.

Mr. Shuldham is the Chairman of the Board; is he a Solicitor?

No; he is a Country Gentleman; he was formerly at the Bar.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned till To-morrow, Twelve o'Clock.

Die Veneris, 25° Maii 1838.

The Lord WHARNCLIFFE in the Chair.

Evidence on the Operation of the Poor Law Amendment Act.

Mr. Richard Wigg.

Mr. RICHARD WIGG is called in, and examined as follows:

WHAT are you?
Relieving Officer of the Plomesgate Union.

Are you acquainted with a Woman of the Name of Susan Ling?
Yes.

That Woman has been relieved by order of the Board of Guardians, has she not?
Yes.

How many Children had she at the Time living with her?
She had Four Children with her depending upon her, and there were Two Girls above the Age of Sixteen, and One Boy at work, also living at home.

Do you allude to Joseph as the Boy at work, or William?
William is the Boy at work; Joseph is the eldest Son.

What was Mary Ann of Sixteen doing?
She occasionally went to work; she has occasionally applied for Assistance.

How is John?
John is employed generally.

There were Abraham, Bathsheba, David, and Mark relying upon her for Assistance?
Yes.

Could not Abraham have got Work?
They are too young; the Boy is small, and has never been employed.

Did you at any Time alter the Allowance to her without an Order from the Board of Guardians?
I do not recollect that I ever did.

Was there any Occasion on which Mr. Barclay was present and directed you not to give them so much as the Board had ordered?
No.

Are you positive of that?
Yes.

Did you ever take upon yourself to alter the Relief that was ordered by the Board?
Not unless there is some Cause for it with regard to Earnings,—any extra Income that the Board was not aware of; then I have taken an Opportunity to reduce the Relief.

If you should have discovered that after the Relief was ordered?
Yes.

Do you in that Case always report that on the next Meeting of the Board?
Yes; not till I think it wants to be restored.

Do you alter it before you have reported the new Circumstance to the Board?
Yes.

What Authority have you for doing that?
That is according to our Instructions.

Mr. Richard Wigg.

Have you got a Copy of those Instructions?
No.

Who gives you those Instructions?
We receive them at the Board.

Do you mean the Instruction from the Board of Guardians?
Yes.

Not in Writing?
No; it is generally understood that those are the Instructions to all of us, when we find a Pauper has received Earnings or Relief of any Kind from any other Quarter, to make a certain Reduction accordingly.

Without making any Report to the Board previously?
Yes.

It is left to your Discretion what the Reduction should be?
Yes.

Have you not printed Instructions given you, issued by the Board of Commissioners?
Yes.

Your Instructions are, that if you find that the Amount of Earnings or Income as given by the Pauper to the Board is correct you give the Relief determined upon; if it is incorrect, and the Pauper is earning more than the Board of Guardians are aware of, you deduct a Portion?
Yes.

When did you receive those Instructions from the Board of Guardians?
Those were the original Instructions.

Were they given you upon your first Appointment?
Yes.

Were they given you by Word of Mouth by the Chairman?
Yes.

Had you a Book with printed Instructions given you?
Yes.

Are those Instructions you have referred to given you in that Book?
That I cannot answer.

Do you mean to say that you received verbal Instructions in contradiction of or to enlarge your written Instructions?
Not to enforce them.

Do you act on verbal Instructions that are inconsistent with the written Instructions?
No.

What are your Instructions?
I have no Instructions here of that Description, but it is understood by all, that when a Pauper has got Work, or received partial Earnings during the Week, when we go to the Parish to make the Payment directed by the Board we are to make a certain Deduction.

You say there are Instructions to that Effect?
Yes.

You say there is a printed Instruction?
As far as regards that, I do not recollect that I have seen that in my printed Instructions; but it is an Instruction from the Board of Guardians.

Then it is not an Instruction from the Poor Law Commissioners, but from the Board of Guardians?
We received our Instructions from the Board of Guardians.

You did receive printed Instructions?
Yes.

Mr. Richard Wigg.

Is it among the printed Instructions?
I cannot say.

You have said, "it is understood by us all we are to make this Deduction;" whom do you mean by "us all"?
By the Three Relieving Officers.

You set up your Discretion against that of the Guardians?
No, not against their Instructions; we are directed to do this by the Guardians of the Union.

Is that Order in Print or in Writing?
I have not seen it in Print or in Writing, but it is a verbal Order from the Board.

Who gives this verbal Order?
It is given by the Chairman.

Who is the Chairman?
Mr. Shuldham.

When was that given?
At the Commencement of the Union.

Have you had Occasion frequently to act upon that Order?
Yes, frequently, when they are able-bodied Widows; when they have made Earnings of course we make a Deduction.

When you have found an Alteration in their Circumstances which led you to presume that the Board would not have ordered so large an Amount of Relief have you altered the Allowance?
Yes.

Have those Alterations made by you been generally allowed by the Board?
Yes; there has been no Contradiction.

You conceive you have generally exercised a sound Discretion?
Yes.

And the Board of Guardians have confirmed it?
Yes.

Have you ever had Occasion to increase what has been ordered by the Board?
No; if a Board Order was made on the previous Tuesday we have not had Power to increase that Relief.

But if you find there is Occasion for further Relief you report that at the next Board?
Yes.

You have a discretionary Power to decrease, but not to increase the Allowance?
Yes.

Supposing you find that the Board of Guardians had administered Relief, giving the Pauper Credit for having received more than he had, do you add to the Allowance?
No.

You report the Fact to the next Meeting of the Board?
Yes.

Why do you think it necessary to diminish when you find he has received more, and not to increase in case you find that the contrary is the Fact?
That is in consequence of Earnings made subsequently to the Order, but we cannot increase the Order of the Board.

Does not it often happen that the Earnings are less in Amount than the Board of Guardians suppose they are?
I suppose that may occur.

Mr. Richard Wigg.

Does not it often occur?
I should say not very often.

Have you in any one such Case ever added to the Allowance?
I did once, and that I had to pay for out of my own Pocket.

Have you ever known an Instance where the Pauper gave an Account of his Earnings more than he actually received?
No.

They are not in the habit of giving an Account more unfavourable to themselves than the Fact requires?
They have generally given the Amount favourably to themselves, of less Earnings than they have made.

Does not it happen frequently that though they have given a fair Account at the Time, the Earnings turned out to be less than they reckoned on?
Occasionally it may.

You have Permission, if you find a Person in urgent Circumstances, to give him Relief without an Order of the Board of Guardians, or to give him an Order for the House?
Yes, in urgent Cases.

Have you found Occasion to do that?
I have found Occasions of that Kind during this Winter, and have reported the Case at the next Sitting of the Board.

What do you consider an urgent Case?
A State of Destitution from the Want of a House or Lodging.

Do you consider a total Want of Food to constitute an urgent Case?
If I should find a Man who appeared in Destitution for Food I should give him an Order for the House.

Suppose an Accident happens to one of the Children of a Family to which you were giving Relief, would not that afford a Ground for your giving further Relief?
I should give further Relief.

And if the Doctor orders Mutton you would give it?
Yes, or any other extra Comfort directed by the Doctor.

Do you not give Wine under those Circumstances?
Yes.

Strong Beer?
Yes, and Brandy in certain Cases; I have done that.

You feel it your Duty to do it in case of its being directed?
Yes.

The Board have never disapproved it?
Never when it was ordered.

Do you not frequently refer Paupers to the Guardians, without giving them Relief in the meantime?
No.

How do you imagine that they are to exist in the meantime?
If I find they have the Means I put them off till the Board Day.

If you are incorrect in that, and they have not the Means, then they may starve and die?
That is possible.

And you may be indicted for Murder?
I am aware of that Responsibility, but I have never felt in any Case that I incurred Danger by any Refusal I have made.

What Sort of Responsibility do you incur, in your Opinion?
I am not aware of the Law, but I suppose I am subject to a Misdemeanor.

Mr. Richard Wigg.

At all events that you are subject to a Dismissal from your Office?
Yes.

You are aware that you are subject also to an Indictment?
Yes; I am aware that I am under a very severe Responsibility, but I have never felt that I was in any Danger in consequence of any Refusal I have made.

If you felt any Doubt of the Party being able to support himself till the next Meeting of the Board, you would give him Relief in the meantime?
Certainly I should in such a Case.

What were you before you were Relieving Officer?
I was a Miller.

How many Relieving Officers have you in your Union?
Three.

What is the Population of the Union?
I think there are about 20,000.

When you have gone to relieve at Wickham Market, has Mr. Barclay attended upon you upon those Occasions?
He has perhaps Half a Dozen Times since the Union commenced, but I think not oftener.

Can you remember any Occasions on which Mr. Barclay desired you to decrease the Allowance ordered by the Board of Guardians?
I do not remember a Case of that Kind; if there was any thing of that Kind arose it was at the Commencement of the Union, and that was Two Years and a Half ago.

Do you believe any such Case occurred?
I do not know that I could call any thing of the Kind to Mind.

Did that occur in the Case of Susan Ling at all?
No; I am sure of that; she is an Inhabitant of another Parish; she is living at Blaxhall; I never saw Mr. Barclay at Blaxhall in my Life.

If you should find a Family in the Receipt of accidental Relief by private Charity between the Board Days, should you consider that a sufficient Cause to diminish the Allowance?
I should not diminish the Relief given by the Board in a Case of that Kind.

If a benevolent Person had happened to give a Person Half a Crown, in all Probability you would not know it; but if you did, should you think that a Ground for diminishing the Allowance?
No, not in a Case of Charity.

Should you report it to the Board?
No; I should not think that I was bound to do that—a single Case; I should if it frequently occurred.

You would take no Notice of it?
No, not a single Half Crown, if it was a Family of any Extent.

What Sort of a Family are the Lings; are they well conducted?
I do not know any thing against them; they are a rough Lot.

Are they industrious?
The eldest young Man of the Family is a very industrious young Man.

Did you order Susan Ling to nurse another Pauper?
I did.

What was that Pauper's Name?
Not a Pauper; it was a Labourer's Wife in poor Circumstances; it was a sick Woman, who had been so for Months.

What was her Name?
Her Name was Woolneth.

Mr. Richard Wigg.

Did she do so?
She did not.

What do you mean by saying Woolneth was not a Pauper?
Her Husband was in full Work, earning sufficient to maintain the Family; she had been ill for some Months, and it was just before Harvest they were knocked up, and they called upon me to find a Nurse for a Day or Two in the Week, and I desired Susan Ling to go, and she refused it.

You considered that as Medical Relief?
Yes.

She being a Member of the Family of an able-bodied Man, who otherwise would not have been considered as a Pauper?
Certainly; the Man was in constant Earnings, and had never been on my Books.

Did Susan Ling go?
No, she did not go.

Did she not sit up One Night with her?
She might, after the Second Application; she did not after the First, for I reported it to the Board.

Did you ask her to go and sit up every Night, or every other Night?
I asked her to go and sit up every other Night.

Are you sure she did not go and sit up every other Night?
I believe she went One Night.

Was that before or after she refused to go?
It was afterwards.

In the meantime, after that Refusal, and before she went, did you report her Refusal to the Board?
After the First Application I made to her to attend this poor Woman I reported the Case to the Board.

At what Time of the Year was this?
It was the Beginning of last Harvest.

Do you remember meeting her upon the Road after she had been there?
No; I do not recollect it.

Do you recollect asking her where she had been?
I do not recollect it.

Is it true that, after sitting up that One Night of which you have spoken, the Woman herself got somebody else to sit up with her, and told Ling she was not wanted?
She had a Daughter-in-law, and a young Woman, who was courted by one of the Sons, who had sat up with her; they had got tired of it, and called upon me to send a Nurse in consequence.

Do you know whether, after Ling did sit up One Night, somebody else sat up afterwards, and they told her she was not wanted?
There was another Person sat up with her after she sat up One Night.

Was that a Person of your sending?
Yes, in consequence of her refusing to go; she told me that they told her that she was not wanted.

Whereabouts was it she told you so?
It was at the Pay Table, when I relieved the Parish.

Not when you met her in the Road?
I do not recollect meeting her in the Road.

You say you got another Person, and paid that other Person for sitting up with her?
I did not pay her; she was a Pauper that I sent.

You thought she was sufficiently paid by the Relief given her by the Board?
It is the only Thing I have asked of her since she received Relief from the Union.

Union. It is considered by the Board that that is what they ought to do, as far as they are able. *Mr. Richard Wigg.*

Did she attempt to make any Excuse for not going?
Yes; she made what they usually make an Excuse, that she had Pains and Rheumatism, and was not able to do any thing for herself.

Did she tell you that the Family had told her they could get somebody else, and that she need not go there again?
She told me that the Family told her she was no longer wanted.

Did you offer Widow Ling any Pay for waiting upon that poor Woman?
No.

Could not she employ that Time she so occupied in doing something for her Family?
I am pretty sure she had not any thing to do at the Time.

It was understood she had some Means of making a Profit of her Time?
It was always supposed that she might, but she did not do that which we thought she ought to do to support her Family.

If she was sitting up at Night, how could she employ herself in the Day?
I required her to go only for One Week, and then I would get somebody else.

If she went One Week, would she have been as capable of earning something for her Family as she would if she did not do so?
Perhaps not.

Then would it not have been reasonable that she should receive something for sitting up?
If she had lost Time by sitting up I should have reported the Case to the Board, and they would have made the Recompence they thought proper.

Would she not have lost Time?
She would.

Should you have reported that to the Board?
If I found that she had lost any thing.

If you found that she had lost the Means of earning something?
Yes.

Did you consider that the Relief she was receiving was sufficient to support herself without Work?
We supposed that she had a Right to get what Work she could besides that brought in by her elder Son; we supposed, with the Relief I gave, that the Earnings of the Family were sufficient to maintain herself, with the Exception of the Two Girls, Susan and Mary Ann, who were above Sixteen.

You reckoned upon her earning something?
Yes.

Should you have required her to go and nurse this Person, if you knew she was earning something.
No.

Did you know that she had a large Family depending upon her Exertions?
In some measure depending upon her Exertions, but not principally.

But as she was earning nothing she must depend upon your Relief and the Labour of her Son?
Yes; we conceived she did not make the necessary Exertions we had a Right to expect; she was an able-bodied Woman.

Is the Allowance you give from the Board of Guardians considered to be for the Time gone by or the Time to come?
The Time to come.

You reported this Circumstance to the Board at the next Meeting?
Yes; finding a Difficulty in getting a Nurse.

Mr. Richard Wigg.

Was the Woman brought up to the Board at the same Time?
I forget whether she made her Appearance; I reported the Case, I know.

Did you ever see the Woman at the Board?
I have seen her many Times.

Did you ever hear her make a Complaint upon this Subject?
I reported the Case, that she would not attend to my Request.

Was she before the Board in consequence of that Report of yours?
I will not be positive whether she went or not, but I am very certain I reported the Case.

Who was in the Chair at the Time?
I cannot remember.

What Report did you make to the Board?
That she would not attend to my Order.

And go to nurse without any Wages for the Labour, or your paying her as if she had been at work somewhere else?
I always take care to request those to nurse who have nothing to do; I never requested any Person to go to nurse who had any thing to do.

Was she to nurse for nothing because she had nothing else to do, or to be paid for it?
We expected she was to do that towards the Relief she was receiving from the Parish; but if she had work to do I should not have requested her to lose her Time.

Do you not remember that this Person was questioned at the Board upon this Matter?
Yes; I will not be too positive about her being up; but I reported the Case, I am certain.

You cannot recollect her being questioned upon that Subject at the Board?
I will not be positive.

In consequence of your Report what was done?
I really forget what was done at that Time.

Was she taken into the Workhouse?
No; if the Order was made she never went.

In consequence of your Report was an Order made for her to go into the Workhouse?
I will not be positive that there was an Order made for her to go into the Workhouse at that Time; but there have been Orders for her to go in.

Cannot you recollect whether shortly after your Report to the Board she had an Order to go into the Workhouse?
I cannot recollect that.

Would not the natural Proceeding have been, if the Board were dissatisfied with the Woman's Conduct and Account, to alter the Order for her Relief, and to give her an Order for the House?
Yes; the Relief is generally taken off by being superseded by an Order for the House.

This was only at the End of last Harvest?
At the Beginning of last Harvest.

Cannot you recollect what was done in consequence of your Report?
I cannot call to mind what was done; I know the Woman was admonished at the Board.

Were you present when she was admonished?
Yes, if she was present at the Time; but really I forget whether she was called. I have had several Attendances upon her Business.

Mr. Richard Wigg.

You do not remember whether the Woman tried to explain, and was not allowed to do so by the Board?
If she made her Appearance I have no Doubt that she did explain.

Did you ever talk to her about going into Lancashire?
Some Time ago I did.

What do you mean by "some Time ago"?
This Time Two Years.

Was that once or oftener?
I frequently noticed it to her.

In what Way did you notice it to her?
I told her I thought it would be to her Advantage to take her Family into Lancashire.

Did she ever state any Wish to go into Lancashire?
No; she always stated that she would not go.

You began the Conversation with her about going into Lancashire?
It is very likely I did.

And she never said on any Occasion, "I wish I could go somewhere else to get Bread for my Family"?
Not to my Recollection, but I asked whether she would not like to go and make better of her Time than she was doing for her Family.

What made you suggest that to her?
We had heard of the extraordinary Wages given in Lancashire to different Families; there were Two or Three went from the same Parish who had made Bargains, and were perfectly satisfied, one in particular, a Relative of hers, her Husband's Brother's Family.

What is the Name?
Samuel Ling, I think.

When did he go into Lancashire?
He went into Lancashire about Two Years ago; I heard frequently from him.

How long had he been gone before you held out his Example in going there to her?
I do not know; I advised her several Times to go. I do not know that I advised her from that Circumstance; for the first sent from our Part, I think, was from the Parish of Tamlingham or Parham.

When did that Family go?
Soon after the Commencement of the Union.

In what Year?
I think the Beginning of the Year 1836.

Was it soon after the first one went that you spoke to the Woman about her going into Lancashire?
Yes.

How did you know that the going into Lancashire had answered in that Case?
By the Reports we had had.

How long had they been there?
They had been there a short Time. The first Family that went, I think, went from Parham; the Parties had written to their Friends; they advised their Friends to go also. In one particular Case a young Man wrote to the Parish of Parham for his Grandfather or his Grandmother to go, saying that he would pay their Expenses.

Had there been more than One Letter from those Parties?
There had been several from this Person.

Was that the Reason you spoke to this Woman upon this Subject?
In a great measure it was.

Richard Wigg.

What else was it that induced you to recommend to her to go?
By the Understanding we had, that they were doing very well there, and earning great Wages.

Can you state in what Terms you recommended it; did you state to the Woman that she was a Burden to the Parish, and had better go to Lancashire?
I said I thought it was much better for her to go into Lancashire and get a Living for her Family than to be a Pauper.

Did you refer at all to her being a Burden upon the Parish?
I cannot recollect that I did.

Do you think you said any thing about its being a Shame that she should be a Burden to the Parish; that she should go into Lancashire and get her Living?
I think it is probable I did.

By whose Instruction did you state that?
I do not know that I did it by any one's Instruction.

Had you Instructions upon this Subject from the Board?
I had Instructions from the Board to represent that those who had large Families might go with Advantage into Lancashire.

Do you mean that you had Instructions to report this Case to the Board?
Yes; we drew up a List of those with large Families.

Were you directed to report those Persons to the Board?
Yes.

Can you mention the Name of the particular Guardian who directed you to do so?
No; it was a general Feeling that that should be done.

Was Mr. Barclay at the Board?
I think it is probable he was at the Board.

You were directed to suggest to those Parties that they had better go into Lancashire and get larger Wages than remain Paupers?
Yes.

Did you ever talk of its being shameful they should remain when they could earn better Wages elsewhere?
Yes; I think it very likely I did say so.

You thought yourself justified in doing so in consequence of the Directions of the Board?
Yes.

Did you ever see any of the Terms offered in the Contracts by People in Lancashire?
Yes; I have seen the Contracts which have been entered into by the Board, but I do not recollect them now.

You knew they were much higher than they could get in your own Neighbourhood?
Yes; the Wages of one Family, after being there Three Years, the last Year's Wages, were 40*s.* 3*d.*

Did you offer them the Expenses of going there?
No; that was not in my Power.

You never led them to believe that their Relief would be stopped if they did not go?
No.

You never used Expressions which would lead them to believe that their Relief would be stopped if they did not go?
No.

Mr. Richard Wigg.

Did you ever say to Susan Ling, or any other Pauper, that if she did not go to Lancashire she might get an Order to go into the House?
No; I do not recollect that I ever made an Observation of that Sort.

Did you ever tell her that if she would not consent she must go into the Workhouse, to try whether that would not alter her Mind about going away?
No.

Nor any thing like it?
No.

You never told her that she must go to the Workhouse if she would not go into Lancashire?
I thought that ultimately, perhaps, there would be an Order, but I do not recollect any thing of the Kind.

Do you ever recollect saying that an Order for the Workhouse might alter her Mind?
I do not.

You will not swear that you did not say any thing of that Kind?
I think I can swear that.

Do you undertake to swear that you did not say, "If you do not go to Lancashire you must go into the Workhouse, and that may alter your Mind"?
I should be very sorry to say that which was not true, but I have no Recollection of the Kind.

Will you venture to say you might not have said some such Thing?
I will not.

To the best of your Recollection, on Oath, you never said any thing of the Kind?
To the best of my Recollection, on Oath, I never said any thing of the Kind.

Did she ever remonstrate with you for talking to her upon the Subject of going into Lancashire, and say, that she thought it very cruel to be driven into Lancashire?
Yes; she has told me that.

Was that in consequence of your Conversation?
Yes.

Did you continue to mention it to her?
I named it to her frequently; I said but very little about it, but when I have seen her I have said, "Mrs. Ling, have you made up your Mind to go into Lancashire?" but I said very little to her upon it.

What Answer did she make?
She always said she would not go for anybody.

Did she say any thing about striving to do all in her Power?
I do not recollect that; I did not consider that she had made the best Use of her Time.

Was there ever any thing like Compulsion used to make any of those Persons go into Lancashire?
No; I do not know of such a Thing.

Did Samuel Ling go in consequence of your Persuasion?
It was suggested to him by some of the People of the Parish.

Do you know what he earned?
I do not recollect.

Is he there now?
He is.

Do you know what he has received in the last Quarter?
I understood the Family's Wages were increased, but I do not know the Amount.

Mr. Richard Wigg.

Were not a great many sent back?
I have had none in my District; there are some back in the Union, but not in my District.

How many have been sent back?
I do not know that they were sent back, but they have come back; — yes, I was informed there was a Family came back in the Parish of Sudbourne; the Man came back; he was not sent back.

Do you conceive the sending those Persons into Lancashire has succeeded?
Yes.

Has the Scheme of sending Persons into Lancashire been a Failure, or has it succeeded?
It has succeeded in my own District very well indeed.

As far as you have been acquainted with the County, do you consider it a Failure, or that it has succeeded, and been beneficial to the Pauper as well as to the Parish?
I should have considered that it had succeeded.

Some of your Families are returned?
One Family I had forgotten have returned; it was in consequence of his not being a very good Hand at his Business; he is a Shoemaker.

It has answered extremely well with Samuel Ling?
Yes; and a Man of the Name of Cracknell, from Eyke, has done very well.

They were Agricultural Labourers?
Yes.

Generally speaking, have you observed that the Agricultural Labourers who have migrated into Lancashire have succeeded better than the Mechanics?
I do not know a great many Mechanics who have migrated; there are Two Men from the Parish of Marlsford, very respectable Men, who have succeeded very well.

Have any Families gone from your District, not through the Intervention of the Board?
I cannot call to Mind any who have done so.

Under what Circumstances have those returned who did return; did they come back in a State of Distress?
I do not know the Situation of the Man from Sudbourne; I did not know that he was in the Country for Six Weeks or Two Months after he came back.

Did he come back at the Expense of his Employer, or as well as he could?
I do not know that I can answer that, but I suppose he found his Way back.

Did not he beg his Way back?
That I cannot speak to.

He did not apply to you for Relief for some Time after his Return?
No; not for Six Weeks or Two Months.

From which you would infer that he was not distressed?
I should.

How have the Expenses of those Paupers who migrated been defrayed?
They have been paid by the Board according to their Circumstances.

Have any Circumstances occurred in your Union in which a Labourer who had gone to Lancashire had not received the Amount of Wages stipulated for in his Contract?
I do not remember a Circumstance of the Kind; most of them have obtained more Wages than they had contracted for.

When you represented to this Woman the Advantage of her going into Lancashire, did you explain the Sort of Work in which she and her Family would be employed?
I told her that it would be Factory Work, and that they would obtain Wages according to their Ability.

Mr. Richard Wigg.

Did you tell her what Factory Work was?
I was never in a Factory in my Life.

Do you know from any Source what Factory Work was?
No.

All you knew was, that they could earn more Wages?
Yes.

Do you consider that a sufficient Reason for persuading her to go, without any reference to the Sort of Work?
I never heard that they worked so hard as Agricultural Labourers.

Have you never heard of the Hardship of the Work?
I never heard much about the Hardship of the Work, but only the Number of Hours that they were at work.

In what Way was Susan Ling employed; in what Kind of Labour?
She did very little; I do not remember that she ever did any thing till this Spring; she never had earned any thing herself, not Sixpence in fact.

What is she doing now?
I do not know what she is doing now, for she is off my Books.

She is receiving no Relief now?
No; she has Employment found by one of the Parishioners of the Parish.

At what Wages?
I cannot say.

You cannot say what the Earnings of the Children are?
I cannot say what they are.

When you advised Susan Ling to go into Lancashire were you principally induced to do so by the expected Saving to the Parish?
I conceived it my Duty, as Relieving Officer, to advise her to go, to relieve the Parish.

And you thought also she would do much better herself there?
Yes; I should never have advised her to go unless I had thought that she would do much better herself.

Your principal Object was the Relief of the Parish?
No; that was a secondary Object of mine.

You stated that you were directed to suggest this by the Board?
Yes; they wished me to suggest this to large Families, where they were of the proper Ages.

Those able-bodied Persons knew that you had the Power of recommending their being sent to the Workhouse if they refused?
I had no Power of sending them.

You do not recommend to the Board to put a Person into the Workhouse?
No; they do not take a Suggestion from a Relieving Officer.

Do you know a Woman of the Name of Jane Graystone?
Yes.

She is in your District for Relief?
Yes; in the Parish in which I live, Tunstall.

She has a considerable Number of Children, has not she?
Yes.

How many of them are at home?
She has Five at home. They were in Work last Week.

At the Time you originally relieved her what were their Earnings?
When I relieved her I believe she never tried for Work for her Children; I believe the Family never earned Five Shillings until the Relief was taken off and she was ordered into the House.

Mr. Richard Wigg.

They were at home doing nothing?
Yes.

When you first relieved them did you suggest that they should go out to work?
Yes, I did. There is One Thirteen Years of Age, and Two of Ten, Twins.

After you relieved her Two Weeks did not you reduce her Allowance?
It is done according to the Board's Order; whatever was done was done by the Board.

It was not reduced by you in the first instance, and then reported to the Board?
No.

That was not a Case in which you used your Discretion?
No.

It was again reduced after that, was not it?
It was reduced after that by the Board.

At first you gave her Two Stone and a Half of Flour and 2*s.* 9*d.*, did not you?
I believe that is the Relief; but I can refer to my Book and see, if it is wished. (*The Witness refers to his Book.*) The first Relief I see here is a Stone and a Half of Flour and 2*s.*

At what Time was that?
The Quarter ending 25th December 1836; that went on for Five Weeks; then she had Two Stone of Flour and 2*s.* 9*d.*; that went on for the Remainder of the Quarter.

Was there no Reduction in the Second Week, taking away Half a Stone of Flour and 9*d.*?
No; at the Commencement of the Quarter it was a Stone and a Half of Flour, and that remained for Four Weeks.

At the End of Twenty-two Weeks had you not reduced it Half a Stone of Flour and 6*d.*?
In the Quarter ending the 25th of March 1837 she had Two Stone of Flour and 2*s.* 9*d.* all the Way through that Quarter; then the next Quarter she had Two Stone of Flour and 2*s.* 9*d.* for Five Weeks during that Quarter; then she had Two Stone of Flour and 1*s.* 6*d.* and continued so the Remainder of the Quarter.

How long did she continue to receive any Relief at all?
She has continued up to the present Quarter.

Was it not reduced before her Father died?
It might be reduced, but not taken off.

If she has stated that afterwards it was reduced to 2*s.*, and then to nothing, till her Father, who lived with her, died, on the 15th of January last, is that true?
That is not correct.

Do you recollect her Father dying?
Yes.

Was her Allowance reduced in consequence of that?
Not in consequence of that. She had Two Stone and a Half of Flour and 1*s.* 6*d.* till the Sixth Week of the Quarter ending 25th December 1837; then she had Two Stone and a Half of Flour the remaining Part of the Quarter; the last Two Weeks of that Quarter she had 2*s.* added.

Has she ever been without Relief since she came upon your Books?
Yes; she is now.

Do you know when her Father died?
He died the 15th of January 1838.

How

Mr. Richard Wigg.

How do you know that?
I am Registrar to the District.

And that is taken from the Register?
It is.

At any Time before her Father died was she receiving no Relief of any Kind from the Parish?
Not since the Death of her Husband; she never was a Week without from the Death of her Husband till after the Death of her Father, and she had Relief through the last Quarter.

How old was the Father?
He was Sixty-eight, if I recollect right.

Did the Father receive Relief?
No.

What was he?
He was a Carter of Coals; he was formerly a Smuggler; he used to have a Horse and Cart to carry about Coals.

She keeps a Beer Shop, does not she?
Yes.

What was her Relief in the last Quarter?
The last Relief she received was in Money 7*s.* a Week; she had 5*s.* in Flour, and 2*s.* in Money, up to the last Week in this Quarter.

Has she lately been ordered up to the Board?
Yes.

Were you present when she was there?
Yes.

Was there any thing said about the Licence for the Beer House?
Yes; she was asked how she came by the Licence.

How came they to ask her how she came by the Licence?
Because they thought she might have Means they knew nothing of to advance a Guinea for the Licence.

Did they ask her who had paid it?
They asked her how she came by the Money to pay for the Licence; she said she had a Friend to do it for her.

Did she mention the Name of that Friend?
No.

In consequence of her coming up what was done?
She had an Order into the House.

That was in consequence of their finding that she had the Means of getting this Licence?
No, but that she never did any thing to get Work; in fact, she had gone so far as to say, those that had Work were Fools; she would never work.

She refused to tell the Name of the Person who gave her Assistance for the Licence?
I do not recollect that she refused, but that she said that she had a Friend to do it.

They did not ask her who that Friend was?
I do not recollect that they did.

Did she go out, and was she ordered in again?
That is generally the Case; after giving a Statement of her Family she is ordered out.

Then she is ordered in again?
Yes.

What passed then?
They gave her an Order for the House.

Mr. Richard Wigg.

Was there any Conversation with the Guardians about that Time; did they not ask her about her keeping her Five Children?

They had done that when she had been in before; they asked her whether she could not do something for the Maintenance of her Family; she said she could do nothing for them.

When she was called in the second Time did they give her an Order for the House?

Yes.

What passed on their giving her that Order?

I do not recollect any thing further than the Insolence of the Woman; she said she would go to London and leave her Family upon them; that she could support herself in London.

Did she tear their Order into Pieces?

She did in the Yard, not in the Board Room.

Did she make use of any violent Language to the Guardians?

She behaved very insolently.

Did she say any thing like this: "You are a Pack of Villains"?

I do not recollect that.

Mr. Barclay was in the Chair at that Time, was not he?

I forget.

Did you say any thing to her in consequence of any Language that came from her?

No; she was ordered out of the Room.

Was she merely desired to go out of the Room?

She had got her Order for the House.

Was she told, "Go along with you," or any thing of that Sort?

After she had got the Order for the House she walked out, and said she would throw her Family on them, or something of that Kind.

Was she ordered out of the Room, or did any one say, "Go along," or "Get out of the Room," or any thing of that Kind?

No; I never heard any thing of that Kind said at that Board.

She was not "treated more like a Dog than a Christian"?

I never heard any thing of the Kind.

Was she in your Opinion roughly treated by the Board of Guardians on that Occasion?

No; nor I never heard a Pauper at that Board roughly treated on any Occasion.

When she came out was she in great Dejection, and crying?

She was not, but she was very violent; she said she would leave her Family to the Parish, for she thought she could maintain herself, meaning that she could come to London, and that she did not mean to go into the House.

What do you know of her since that Time?

Her Family since that Time have got some Work, and I believe they have earned more Money since that than they had ever earned in their Lives before.

How do you know that?

I have learned it from the Surveyor of the Parish.

She has not left her Family on you?

No.

Is that the Surveyor of the Highways?

Yes.

Have they been regularly employed upon the Highways since that Time?

Yes; I have Four Weeks Work for them since that Time, since the Date of the Order; I cannot state the exact Date.

In

Mr. Richard Wigg.

In what Sort of Work have they been employed by the Surveyor?
Stone-picking.

What Members of the Family?
Hannah, Thirteen, and the other Two, the Twins, of Ten.

What have they earned?
The First Week they earned 1*s.* 6*d.*, the Second 2*s.* 6*d.*, the Third 3*s.*, and the Fourth 3*s.* 9*d.*

Do you mean the Three together?
Yes.

They are very small Sums to enable her to support a Family on; do you apprehend she has supported her Family since she has been refused Relief?
I do not know her Income; she is selling a little Beer, and she is selling a little Fruit and Sweatmeats.

She keeps a Shop?
There is a little retail Shop.

Has she had that all along?
Yes; she has had it for Years past.

The keeping of a Beer House has been only of late?
Yes.

When did she begin to keep a Beer House?
I think since Michaelmas. Her Father sold Beer in the first instance; it was on his Account.

Did she succeed to it afterwards?
Yes.

She has continued to keep that and a little Shop?
Yes; what she had she continued as before.

You apprehend that from that and the Earnings of the Children she has had sufficient since the withdrawing the Relief?
I should think her Earnings are not sufficient to maintain a Family.

With the Profit of the Trade, and the Earnings of the Children, do you think she has been able to maintain the Family?
They have been able to go on, but whether without reducing their Means, and selling their Furniture, I cannot tell.

Have you seen her since?
I saw her on Saturday.

Did she appear to be in Distress?
No.

Are her Children well clothed?
Not particularly well clothed; they are pretty well shod.

She has some Means or other of maintaining them?
At present she has, but I do not think she can maintain herself entirely without some Assistance.

Do you know whether she is in Debt or not?
I know she is in Debt, for she owes me a Trifle.

Do you know whether she has sold any of her household Goods?
A Part of the Furniture was sold; it was considered to be her Father's.

Has she never applied to you since that Time for Relief?
She has had twice an Order to go into the House; the last Order was given about a Fortnight or Three Weeks ago.

Had she applied to you previously to that for Relief?
Yes; and I reported the Case to the Board, and they ordered her to attend.

Mr. Richard Wigg.

When you reported that to the Board did you report, that though she had this Beer Shop, and her Children were earning what you have stated, still you thought they would not be able to maintain themselves?
I did not know the Fact then; some of those Things have occurred since.

You reported the Facts, but not your Opinion?
I reported the Facts as far as my Opinion justified.

Were you asked any Questions as to her Ability to maintain herself?
I was asked as to her Earnings, and she gave me an Account of very little. The Statement I have recently made is what she had earned up to the last Week.

You reported the Facts which had come to your Knowledge to the Board?
Yes; but Part of those Earnings have been made since.

When you reported her Case to the Board when she was offered the Workhouse the last Time were you asked by the Guardians, whether, in your Opinion, her Earnings were sufficient to maintain her?
No; I was not asked that Question.

Were you on previous Occasions when she applied?
No; that is a Question which I do not recollect ever to have been put to me.

You never stated an Opinion of that Kind?
No.

The Board of Guardians consider that it is a Case which occasions extreme Difficulty?
Yes; they felt that there must be a Test of her Ability by an Order for the House.

She tore up the Order?
Yes.

How long does that Order run?
It runs from the Tuesday, the Board Day, till Five o'Clock on the following Saturday.

Would she have taken any Work you offered her?
I dare say she would now; I doubt whether she would last Summer, when she was receiving the Relief of the Parish.

You never offered her any?
No; I never had any to offer her.

If she keeps this Beer Shop how can she leave it to go to Work?
The Beer Trade since the Death of her Father has been such, that if she gave up what she is taking in the Shop she might earn more than she is earning by that.

Then she must give up the Shop?
She might lock it up while she is gone, perhaps.

You are of opinion she could earn a better Livelihood out of Doors than she can in that Shop?
That is my Opinion.

At what Time of Day is the Shop frequented; is it not by the Labourers after they have come Home?
I apprehend that what Beer is sold is to the Labourers at Dinner, as the Beer is not drunk in the House.

Do not you conceive the Circumstance of her keeping a Beer Shop weighed with the Board of Guardians?
I have no Doubt it was so.

That they considered it a disadvantageous Mode of bringing up her Family?
I do not know that they viewed it in that Light, but that they apprehended that she had Means which they could not get at.

Mr. Richard Wigg.

If she had gone into the Workhouse she must have given up the Beer House, and the Shop also?
Certainly.

Did she require that she might receive any specific Sum of the Parish?
No; she never made any Observation of that Kind to me; she went so far to me as to say, that if they would allow her a Trifle she would do what she could.

Did you ever come to an Understanding what that Trifle was?
No.

What would it have cost the Parish to keep her Family in the House?
3*s.* a Head.

For her Family of Five Children and herself that would have been 18*s.* a Week?
Yes.

What would she have been content to take?
She would have been content, I believe, to take Two Stone or Two Stone and a Half of Flour; our Contract with the Parish is 2*s.* 2½*d.* a Stone; that is, about 5*s.* 6¼*d.*

That she would have been content with?
I believe she would, but I cannot say.

Have you any Means of knowing what she got by her Sale of Beer?
No, not in the least. I can tell what she told me last Saturday, that she had brewed Two Bushels of Malt, and had not sold the Beer she made in the last Month.

Have you Reason to suppose that is true?
I do not know to the contrary.

Could she and her Five Children possibly live upon the Profits she made by her Business, with the 3*s.* 6*d.* a Week?
I should think not.

The Way to try that, the Guardians thought, was to order her the Workhouse?
Yes.

You suppose she was offered the Workhouse in order to try how far she could obtain her Livelihood without it?
That was in some measure the Reason why she was offered the House, but it was then understood that she never would go to work. I have known her these Twenty Years, and have never known her to get a Day's Work in her Life.

If she was earning something by the Beer Shop that was doing Work?
I believe she was not earning One Third of what she might have got out.

They thought it better to pay a larger Sum for her Maintenance in the House than to assist her in a Course of Idleness out of the House?
I believe their Object was, to put her to the Test, to prove her Earnings.

How does this Woman bring up her Family?
I do not know; some of them have got into Service.

Is she a respectable Woman in her Character?
They say that she tipples; a Woman that tipples is not a respectable Character.

Was she foul-mouthed?
Very much so.

When her Father died did she make Application for any thing to bury him with?
No; the Family, I believe, put together their Mites and buried him; but

Mr. Richard Wigg.

they sold the old Man's Furniture, and, according to her Account, the Amount of what they sold by Auction was 10*l.*

Was there any of her Furniture sold?
I do not know personally.

Did you ever hear that?
I think I never heard that. They had a Sale of what they considered to be her Father's, and it went towards paying his Debts; according to her Account he was in Debt at the Time of his Death to the Amount of 15*l.*; the Amount of that sold was 10*l.*, and they are now in Debt 5*l.*

They applied that towards the Payment of his Debts?
According to her Account. I asked the Man who made the Coffin, and he said that he was not paid, that the Expense of the Funeral was 2*l.* 12*s.*

Do you know a Woman of the Name of Cotton?
Yes; very well.

You have given her Relief by Order of the Board, have you not?
Yes.

What did you pay her at the first Beginning?
For the Quarter ending the 25th of December 1836 she had Two Stone of Flour and 6*d.*

Was that altered?
That Relief was continued through that Quarter; I believe the Thing remained, with the Exception of the Time she was ill, and then it was increased.

Has that remained till now?
Yes; she had Two Stone of Flour and 6*d.* through the Quarter ending the 25th of March 1837.

Look at the Account up to 1838?
Two Stone and 6*d.* for the Quarter ending June 1837.

Do not you recollect whether there has been a Change made in that Allowance?
There was a Change made while she was ill. I do not recollect that she ever had less; she had Two Stone of Flour and 6*d.* during the Quarter ending September 1837; she had Two Stone and 6*d.* during the Quarter ending 25th December 1837; she had Two Stone and 6*d.* for Nine Weeks in the last Quarter; and then Two Stone and 2*s.* 6*d.* for the Remainder of the Quarter.

Is she a very old Woman?
She is Forty.

Is it true that at any Time you put her at 1*s.* 6*d.* less than she had before, and then took off another 6*d.*?
No; my Books will prove that the Relief has never been reduced since the 29th September 1836.

Then it is not true that she had 6*d.* taken off, and then 6*d.* more, by the Relieving Officer?
No, that is untrue, since the 29th September 1836.

Are you sure that by using your Discretion you never took off any Part of that Relief?
Not since the 29th September 1836.

That was the Beginning of your Union, was it not?
The Union was formed in the October previously.

Was she on the Books when the Union began?
Yes.

Between the Time of the Union beginning and December 1836 did you take off any thing?
I did not. That Book will show when she was first paid; it was only for a few Week previous. I have the Account of Nine Quarters here.

Do

Mr. Richard Wigg.

Do you know whether Mrs. Ling or Mrs. Graystone ever complained that under the Practice of the new Poor Law they never had Food enough for more than Four or Five Days out of the Seven?

I am not aware of that with either of them. I have heard Widow Ling complain of being short, but not to say what Number of Days she was out; she has complained that she was in a bad State.

Did she complain, with respect to the Quantity of Bread or Flour, that there was not so much as she could have consumed?

She has complained that she had not enough to eat.

How many Children had she?

She had Four Children at home depending upon herself.

How much Flour had she?

She had Two Stone of Flour and 2*s*. the Beginning of the Time.

When she complained did she say that Want of Food was the Cause of her Illness?

No; she never told me so.

She was ill?

She has been ill.

Did she appear not to have sufficient?

I do not think that she wanted Food.

What was her Illness?

I think it was Rheumatic Fever.

Was the Doctor sent to her?

Oh yes.

Do you know Widow Smith?

Yes.

What is her Age?

Forty.

Had she a Father, a very old Man?

A Father-in-law.

Did she use to nurse him?

She nursed him; but she had done for his Family, his Son and the old Man, for several Years before he died.

Did you give her any Directions about nursing him?

I told her that she must attend to him.

Was she at work in the Fields at the Time?

She lost no Time about him.

How do you know?

She told me that herself the other Day.

Was he an old Man and bedridden?

He was an old Man, and was bedridden but a very short Time.

When he was bedridden did she attend upon him?

She did for One Week.

What did you pay her for that?

1*s*.

She was in Work at that Time?

Yes; but she lost no Time about it. It was in the Night-time she attended him.

If she was up with him all the Night how could she work in the Day?

That was her Account.

If she was attending to him, and up at Night, how could she work during the Day?

He did not require to be attended to all the Night.

Mr. Richard Wigg.

Was he in that State that she was obliged to be up several Times in the Night?
I should think not.

Did the Woman go to work in the Fields during the Time she was attending upon him?
Yes; she did work in the Fields at the Time.

If she has said otherwise that is not true?
I should say so.

How should you know that she was working in the Fields; did you see her?
No; but she told me last Saturday that she lost no Time, and that she attended him only One Week.

What did you give her for that Week?
I gave her 1*s.*, which was by order of the Board.

Did she say when you gave her that, "This is too little, for I have lost Work in the Fields, where I could have got 3*s.*"?
I do not recollect what she said at the Time, but she told me last Saturday that she had lost no Time.

Did she at the Time say that she had lost Money?
No.

Did she complain at that Time that it was not enough?
No; she did not complain of not being paid, only of the old Man's being in a bad Situation for Want of Linen.

Did she complain that it was not sufficient Remuneration for her Loss of Time?
No; I do not recollect any thing of the Kind.

She appeared to be satisfied when you gave her the 1*s.*?
Yes.

Had you ever known that she was at Work at the Time at 6*d.* a Day?
She told me that last Saturday, and that she had lost no Time about it.

Did she earn 6*d.* a Day just as well, notwithstanding she had this Man to attend to?
Yes.

How came you to ask her about this last Saturday?
I was at the Woman's House; she has been very ill; she is better now; I wanted to know her Situation.

How long ago is it since the Father died?
It was soon after last Christmas Twelvemonth.

Was it in consequence of having heard that this Case was mentioned here that you inquired about it last Saturday?
Yes.

Did she hesitate in making the Answer to you?
No; I do not recollect that she hesitated at all about making it.

Was there any thing said about her going into the House?
I recommended that the old Man should go into the Workhouse; he was in a very bad State, and wanted a Change of Linen. His Daughter thinking, I suppose, that the old Man was not likely to live long, went and stripped the House, and left it pretty nearly destitute, as I was informed by the Woman herself.

You gave him Relief?
He had been upon my Books from the Commencement of the Union for 2*s.* 6*d.* a Week.

Did she state that she stripped the House because she was in Distress?
No; that was a married Daughter living at a Distance; it was his own Daughter, who lived at a Distance, who came and stripped the House of the Linen.

Mr. Richard Wigg.

Did you stop his Pay at all?
Not at all; it was never stopped.

If she says it was stopped a Week that is not true?
No, it is not.

Did you offer to supply the Man with Linen?
I did not.

Did you think it right he should lie in that State, wallowing in his own Filth, in the Bed?
He should not have lain long, but he died very soon after I saw him, for he lived but a few Days.

You say that this did not prevent her going on with her Work; is it possible that she could leave him in the Day-time in that State?
She did leave him; he was sensible.

Could he help himself?
He could not help himself at all out of Bed, but there was a Son at home; he lived with the old Man.

All the Day long?
I do not know whether all the Day long, even if there had not been any thing to do; there was not much Affection between them.

This Woman was the only one that could attend upon him?
The only one that could be induced by Affection to do any thing for him; there was a Woman who did something for him for a few Days.

Do you think that she could go on with her Work, she having a Father-in-law in that wretched State in Bed?
She told me she did.

Was that old Woman paid by the Father for what she did?
No.

Was the young Man in the House a Relation of Widow Smith?
He was a Brother of her Husband's.

Was he in full Work?
I think not at that Time.

Is he an able-bodied Man?
Yes.

A single Man?
Yes.

Even if you had supplied this old Man with Linen you could not be sure it would not be carried off?
I should not have been afraid of that.

They had despoiled him of what he had?
Yes.

And they might have done the same again?
That might possibly occur.

Was there a Seizure for Rent?
There was a Seizure for Rent afterwards.

You recommended the Man to go into the Workhouse, where he would be well taken care of?
Yes; I was sure he would be well taken care of.

Did you ever say, if she did not like to take the 1*s.* you would get them to send him to the Workhouse, for they could keep him cheaper there?
I never said such a Thing.

What Answer did he give?
He said he never was in a Workhouse, and never would be; he would sooner die there.

Mr. Richard Wigg.

The Woman received 1*s.* each Week?
Only One Week; he did not live above a Week.

Do you consider that the Man was in a Condition to be left?
There was his Son with him.

How came they to take away the Linen?
I cannot say; but this Woman told me that his own Daughter came and took it away.

Was that after the Seizure for Rent?
The Seizure for Rent was after the old Man died.

Was it known to you that this Man was in this State of Destitution?
Yes, for I went to see him.

If you did not think it your Duty to relieve him did not you think it your Duty to report him to the Board?
If the old Man had lived I should have reported him to the Board, and asked for Linen for him.

Did not you think it your Duty to report his Situation to the Board?
It was very shortly before he died he wanted a Change of Linen.

How happened it you did not state this to the Board, or obtain Linen for him without?
I do not know that I had Power to go to the Workhouse, where our Stores are kept, to take Linen for him.

Did not you think that was a Case evidently coming within your Power?
I never considered it so; I never have given Linen to a Pauper; I have reported to the Board and got an Order.

You thought, as he was about to die, that you might leave him as he was?
No; I did not expect his Death, and I intended to report to the Board.

Was this Woman receiving Relief living there at the Time of the Seizure?
The Seizure was not in her House, but in the old Man's House; she did not live there, but went backwards and forwards to attend him.

Do you know what was taken there?
There was every thing taken, and the House let to another.

Are you aware whether there was a Clock seized?
I am not.

Are you aware of any Seizure for Rent in the Woman's own House?
I have understood since that there was a Seizure, and that she sold her Clock.

Do you mean that it was sold voluntarily, or by the Bailiff?
I cannot tell.

Have you learned at what Time it was?
No; I do not recollect hearing that.

Did she tell you any thing about some Corn she had got by gleaning being seized at the Time?
Yes; she told me she was obliged to sell it.

When was it she told you all this?
Within the last Month, I should think.

She had been all this Time receiving Relief from the Parish?
Yes.

When those Things were seized did she apply to the Board for any further Relief?
No; I do not recollect that she did.

How did she contrive to live in the House after the Furniture was all sold?
It was not all sold; there is a Bed and Chairs and Tables now.

Mr. Richard Wigg.

Who is her Landlord?
His Name is Sawyer.

Do you know how much Rent was due at the Time of the Seizure?
No; I think it was 3*l.*, and she owes now 1*l.* up to last Michaelmas.

You are sure that the Seizure was after the Death of the Father, and not before?
Yes; I am certain of that.

You have stated that there was a Seizure also in the Father's House?
Yes, not a great while ago; every thing was sold, and the House let to another; that was within the last Two or Three Months.

Who lived there after his Death?
The Son continued there; he has paid the Rent for some Years for his Father; he is an able-bodied Man, constantly employed, earning 10*s.* or 11*s.* a Week for several Years, to about Michaelmas 1836, when he lost his Employment.

This Man not only wanted Linen, but his Bed was in a most deplorable State probably?
It was, I dare say.

You did not think it necessary to call the Attention of the Guardians to that Circumstance, but left him in this State? When did you see him?
I saw him a few Days before he died.

How long before he died?
I should think Four or Five Days.

During the whole of that Time you never reported to the Guardians the State in which he was?
No; I do not recollect whether the Board of Guardians met in the mean-time.

If they did not should you not consider yourself called upon to report to the Guardians the State in which this Man was, which might have accelerated his Death?
No, I did not, as there was a Part of the Family who might have relieved him; and if his Daughter had not taken a way his Linen it would not have been so.

Was not a wet Bed likely to be very injurious to him?
It might.

Do you know any thing more likely to be injurious to him than having his Bed wet?
I think if the dirty Linen could have been taken away the Bed might have been made comfortable.

Was there any Meeting of the Guardians between the Day you last saw the Man and the Day of his Death?
That I cannot recollect; it was in January Twelvemonth.

If there had been should not you have considered it your Duty to point out to them the Situation in which the poor Man was?
Certainly I should; I have done that in other Cases, and have got Linen for Paupers.

How many Weeks was she paid that 1*s.* for nursing that Man?
Only One Week.

You feel convinced in your own Mind, though you cannot recollect the Dates, that you had no Opportunity of reporting to the Guardians the Condition of that Man between the Date of your Visit and the Day of his Death?
That is my Impression. If I had thought that his Situation was a very bad one, and no Part of his Family could have assisted him, I should have reported it, certainly.

Do you think that was not the Case?
I know he was in a filthy State at the Time I saw him.

Mr. Richard Wigg.

Was there any Part of the Family able to support him?
The Daughter I have referred to had taken away the Linen which was wanted.

The Linen having been taken away, did you not think it proper to procure other Linen for him?
I should have done so if he had lived longer.

If he lived Five Days afterwards did you think it proper to leave him those Five Days in want of clean Linen, and in this wretched State?
I thought it ought to be done by his Family.

Do you know whether they were able to do it?
The Woman who took away the Linen could have done it; that Linen would have supplied him of course with what he wanted.

Would any Quantity of Linen have relieved him from the Situation in which he was?
It would have made him comfortable, I should say.

Would clean Sheets have made him comfortable?
Clean Sheets and Blankets would have made him comfortable, I should conceive.

If a poor Man is neglected by his Relations or others, do you think it proper to leave him in that State?
Not for a great while.

Do you think it fit to leave him for Five Days?
It might take Five Days to ascertain the Disposition of the Family.

When you last saw him were you cognizant of his having been robbed of his Linen?
At that Time the Woman told me that his Daughter had taken his Linen away.

With whom did he live?
With his Son, or rather the Son with him; the hiring of the House was the old Man's.

Did the Daughter who is supposed to have robbed him of his Linen live in the House with him?
No.

Was he robbed of his Linen at the Time his Daughter-in-law lived with him?
He was robbed about the Time he was taken ill.

You use the Word "robbed"?
That was the Expression his Daughter-in-law made to me.

Where did the Daughter who took the Linen live?
To the best of my Knowledge, she lived at the Distance of Eight or Ten Miles.

Did you take any Steps to get back the Linen?
I did not; I did not interfere; I did not consider it my Duty to interfere.

If you knew that she had taken away the Linen why did you not try to get it back again?
I do not know that it was my Duty to interfere. If I had gone and got some Linen for the old Man it would have been out of our Stores, not from the Family, for I think I should probably not have succeeded with them.

Why did you not report him to the Board, so that they might interfere by Law if necessary?
I should if he had lived.

Did you report the Circumstance to the next Board?
Yes, and asked for the Sum given to the Woman for nursing.

Did

Did you report to the Board the Circumstance of the Man having been robbed of his Linen?
I did not.

Why did you not?
I do not know. It was but a short Time that he lay in that State; he should not have gone a second Board Day without being relieved.

The Period you allowed was till a second Board Day?
I should have supposed the Family would have set it right before that Time.

The Daughter having robbed him of his Linen, was not it your Business to get it back, or to supply his Wants?
I should conceive so, if the Man had lain longer.

It appears that you would not have interfered in it for a Fortnight, or at all events Ten Days?
I should have visited the Case, and seen the State in which he was; and if I found him in a bad State I should have seen him relieved from Charity or in some Way; I should not have relieved him from our Stores at the Workhouse without an Order from the Board.

You depended upon this Woman bringing Linen, or the Family supplying him, and for Twelve Days you did nothing?
No.

Do you believe if you had taken upon yourself to give him a Change of Linen the Board of Guardians would have disallowed it?
Perhaps not, but it is a Circumstance I never met with before.

Have not you Authority to relieve in every Case where Relief is absolutely necessary?
Yes, in every respect but that; I never have given Relief in an Emergency like that; I have given Goods and Food.

If you found a Man naked by the Road Side you would have given him Clothes?
If I had found a Man in that Condition by the Road Side I should have given him an Order for the House.

Could this Man have been removed to the Workhouse?
If he could not have been removed to the Workhouse I should have sent him to the first Public House to be taken care of.

Did you ever find a Man naked by the Way Side?
I never did.

You offered this Man the Workhouse?
Yes.

What did he say?
He said he never would go there; he had had always a Feather Bed to lay upon, and would not do without it and he would not go into the Workhouse. I believe the Linen which the Daughter had taken away was all which was wanted.

After he died the Son remained in the Cottage?
Yes.

Did the Son make any Effort to recover this Linen?
I do not think he did.

Was he in a Condition to supply this Linen himself?
I have no Doubt he could; he had a Bed in the House well covered with Linen.

He was an able-bodied Labourer?
Yes.

A single Man?
Yes.

Mr. Richard Wigg.

Do you know what Wages he was earning?
I cannot tell what he was earning at that Time; he had been recently discharged in consequence of a Connexion between him and this Woman.

What do you mean by "a Connexion"?
She had had a Bastard Child by him.

Who employed him?
The Rector of the Parish, for whom he had worked Ten or Fifteen Years.

How long after his Discharge did this occur?
A few Weeks.

What is the Age of Widow Smith?
Forty-two.

You stated that you did not feel yourself justified in supplying this Linen the old Man required out of the Workhouse Store?
I had never met with a Case of the Kind.

Suppose, instead of having taken the Linen, his Bed had been taken, and you had found the old Man without a Bed, should you have felt justified in supplying him with a Bed?
If he had been to be relieved I should have given him an Order for the House.

Suppose he was not able to be removed?
Then I think I should have got Stores from the Workhouse; but it is an Instance I never met with.

Did not you consider this a Case of sufficient Urgency to warrant your getting Supplies?
No, I did not.

Do not you think that the Removal of a Man Ninety Years of Age to the Workhouse would tend to accelerate his Death?
No, I think not; the Distance was about Four Miles and a Half.

How long did he lie?
I think he kept his Bed Ten or Eleven Days.

In Cases where Persons in a destitute State have Children able to support them do not the Guardians call upon them to do so?
They relieve the Pauper, and charge the Children with it.

How is the Ability ascertained?
I cannot say.

Are they not summoned before the Magistrates?
I do not know.

No such Case ever occurred within your Knowledge?
No; I do not recollect any thing of the Sort.

Is it the Habit in your Union to give Out-door Relief in any Cases?
Yes; my Book is composed of that, in a great measure.

Then why should you propose to take this old Man into the Workhouse?
In consequence of the Situation of his Bed.

Perhaps the Treatment of his Family had something to do with it?
There was not much Affection shown him by his Son; that was One Reason.

And those Considerations induced you to propose taking him into the Workhouse?
Yes; I considered it would be much the best Place for him.

You never threatened him in case he would not go in?
No, certainly not.

Did his Refusal to go into the Workhouse form one of your Reasons for not supplying him with Linen? Was it with a view to punish him at all?
No; I never thought of punishing him.

Mr. Richard Wigg.

Is it not likely that the filthy Condition in which he was accelerated his Death?
No; I have no Idea of that.

Was he attended by a Medical Person?
I think not; he never asked for Medical Advice.

Did you not order a Medical Person to see him?
No; he did not express a Wish of the Sort.

Without the Expression of a Wish, when you find People in that State, are you not in the habit of ordering a Medical Person to attend?
If they require it; but he was capable of answering for himself.

If you found that he was exceedingly ill, but he did not require it, should not you send a Medical Man to him?
Yes, I should; but I did not consider him in so dangerous a State at the Time.

What was his Complaint?
Old Age; he was Ninety Years old; it was a Decay of Constitution.

Did you ask him how long he had been ill?
I did not; but I knew he had not been ill long, for I had seen him frequently about.

You did not ask him whether he had seen any Doctor?
No; I am sure he had not.

Do you mean that because the Man was Ninety Years of Age, and therefore likely to die of old Age, that was a Reason for not sending a Medical Person to him?
He said nothing to me about sending for a Medical Officer.

Finding him in that Situation, did you not think you ought to have sent a Medical Person to see him?
I did not think it possible a Medical Man could do him any Good.

In a Case of that Kind, though he might not save the Man's Life ultimately, might he not alleviate his Sufferings?
I generally do, but I did not in that Case.

Do you know whether he had any Food?
They did not complain of Want of Food; he had his 2*s*. 6*d*. a Week.

Did he apply to the Board to pay a Nurse for him?
The Daughter-in-law did, and she was paid 1*s*.

You have stated that the Family of One of those Persons from whom Relief has been discontinued have been employed on the Highways?
The Graystone Family.

Have not the Highway Rates been greatly increased in your Union?
Lately they have been.

Have you many ex officio Guardians of your Union?
Five or Six.

How many are there elected?
Forty-one.

Do the ex officio Guardians attend the Board frequently?
Not often.

Do you know a Woman of the Name of Barker,—Widow Barker?
No; it is not within my District.

She is said to live at Wickham Market?
She is not a Pauper.

Do you know a Person of that Name living at Wickham Market
I do not.

Mr. Richard Wigg.

One that received Relief under the old Law?
No.

You remember no such Person making any Application to the Board at any Time?
No.

Did such a Person ever make an Application to you?
I do not recollect it.

Is Eyke in your District?
Yes.

Is there a poor Widow Woman at Eyke, above Seventy, who has Seven Pounds of Flour a Week and 6*d.*?
Her Age is Sixty-eight; her Name is Elizabeth Brightwell.

Does she receive Seven Pounds of Flour a Week and 6*d.*?
She is now on the Book, and has received Half a Stone of Flour and 1*s.*

Was there ever a Time when she was receiving Seven Pounds of Flour and 6*d.*?
Yes.

Did not the Woman work for the Guardian of the Parish?
When she was well she used to work for the Guardian of the Parish.

Was there at any Time an Order from that Guardian to you to take off 6*d.* from her Pay in a Week in which she had worked for him?
I do not recollect being ordered by the Guardian in that Way.

Do individual Guardians interfere to order you to take off Relief?
No; I do not consider it my Duty to attend to any individual Guardian.

Did you ever, at the Recommendation of the Guardian, without Order, take off 6*d.* from her Pay, because she had been at Work for that Guardian?
I do not recollect that; if it occurred it must be a long Time since.

Can you tax your Recollection whether such a Circumstance occurred?
If she did work I do not doubt I might have done it.

You might have got Information from the Guardian, but not Direction?
Yes.

Who is the Guardian?
His Name was Waller; he was Guardian last Year.

Is he a large Occupier?
He is a large Occupier in the Parish; to what Extent I cannot tell; I should suppose nearly Half the Breadth of the Parish, but not in Value, for his Land is a great deal of it poor light Land.

In what State is this Woman?
She does not complain. She has Half a Stone of Flour and 1*s.*

Has she any Children?
Three; all married.

Do you know Elizabeth Green of the Parish of Hacheston?
Yes.

What aged Woman is she?
Seventy-nine.

There has been some Dispute about her Husband's Settlement, has not there?
Yes.

He had been an Apprentice somewhere or other?
He was Apprentice at Stoven.

There has been a Difficulty about producing his Indentures?
There was no Difficulty about it; it was not an Indenture, but a Certificate. He went from Stoven to Hacheston, and the Overseers required a Certificate to indemnify

indemnify the Parish of Hacheston against the Consequences of his going there, so long back as 1784, if I recollect right. *Mr. Richard Wigg.*

There has been a Difficulty in finding this Certificate?
No, none at all; I found it when it was required.

Has there been a Difficulty in proving the Settlement?
No.

No Difficulty put in the Way by any Persons?
No.

Has her Allowance been stopped to force her to give up this Indenture or Certificate?
Soon after the Formation of the Union the Relieving Officer or Clerk of the Board of Blything wrote to me, asking me to relieve the Woman with 1*s.* 6*d.* a Week on their Account. She does not belong to us, but to that Union. That went on for a Time; then afterwards he wrote to me to request the Board to send them a fair Copy of the Certificate, which was done, and the Relief for a Week or Two was suspended; but it was afterwards paid, for she never lost 6*d.* since the Formation of the Union. That went on till last August; then the old Lady represented her Situation to be hard, and I reported her Case to the Blything Board, and obtained an additional 6*d.* a Week; she is now receiving 2*s.*

Was she threatened with having her Allowance taken off unless she produced the Certificate?
She was not threatened, but I believe it was the Intention of the Blything Union to put her to the Test to prove her Settlement; and we found the Certificate, and sent them a fair Copy.

She was never threatened with its being stopped?
It was suspended for a Week or Two; but as soon as we satisfied the Board it went on again; I went to the Parish Chest for it, and found it.

While there was a Doubt about the proper Settlement the Blything People suspended the Payment?
Yes; but it was made up to her. She lost a Quarter's Relief previous to the Union, but she has never lost 1*d.* since.

During the Interval of a Week or Two did you see any thing of her?
I cannot speak to that.

Do you know whether she was at all distressed?
She was living with her Daughter.

You are sure it was not suspended for more than a Week or Two?
Two or Three Weeks at the longest; at the Expiration, the Board being satisfied where she belonged, I paid it to her. I should say the longest was Three Weeks.

What had she to live upon during that Time?
She was living with her Daughter.

In what Situation was her Daughter?
She is receiving Parochial Relief, but she had Three or Four Sons.

The Relief was suspended to ascertain to what Parish she was chargeable?
Yes.

If you had found she was in Distress, or in danger of suffering during the Suspension, you would have given her Relief as in urgent Necessity?
Yes; but she was living with a Daughter who had Three or Four Sons all in Work, and there was no Danger of her suffering.

They were able to support her?
I have an Opinion that they could support her.

Do you know any thing of a Man of the Name of Robert Airey?
No; he belongs to another District in our Union.

Is Sutton in your District?
No; that is in Woodbridge Union.

The Wit ness is directed to withdraw.

J. P. Barclay, Esq. JAMES PRINGLE BARCLAY Esquire is called in, and further examined as follows:

THE Relieving Officer has told the Committee that he is in the habit, if he thinks that the Persons earn more than they have stated to the Board, of his own Accord to reduce the Allowance ordered by the Board, and to report that he has done so afterwards, but not to report to the Board what he has discovered of their Earnings before he has reduced the Allowance ordered by the Board?

I think I have stated nearly the same thing in my Evidence.

Is that founded on the Directions from the Poor Law Commissioners?

It has always been the Practice in our Union, but the Poor Law Commissioners have issued no Order to that Effect.

Do not you think it is liable to Inconvenience, that the Relieving Officer should be allowed to use his own Discretion with respect to the giving the Whole or only a Part of the Relief which has been ordered by the Board?

I do not think that much Inconvenience is likely to arise. The Practice applies to those Persons only who are able to work; and they have always Access to the Board to state that they have not sufficient Relief.

It is supposed that the Board have heard the Case in the first instance, and ordered the Man Relief on the Information of the Relieving Officer; do you think it safe to leave it in the Discretion of the Relieving Officer to change that Relief without resorting to the Board?

I think the Inconvenience would be greater, on the other hand, if Allowances are made to Persons out of Work, and they obtain Earnings in the meantime, so that they get Relief from the Board and work at the same Time, and be paid from both Quarters.

Supposing a Pauper has come to you, and has made a Statement of his Earnings, that you have inquired into that Statement, and having made Inquiries have ordered him *2s.* a Week; if the Relieving Officer should afterwards think that *2s.* a Week was too much do you think that he ought to be allowed to pay the Man 1*s.* 6*d.* before he reported the Circumstances which had induced him to think so to the Board?

With your Lordships Permission, that is a Case that would not occur. It is not that a Party earning a certain Sum of Money every Week of his Life, and the Relieving Officer thinking that the Relief should be brought within a given Amount, in addition, would stop the Relief. No such Rule or Practice ever existed. The Case is this: where a Party comes to the Board,—say an able-bodied Widow; if that Widow were to state, "I can earn *3s.* 6*d.* a Week when at Work, but I have had no Work last Week," and the Board thereupon having ordered her *3s.* 6*d.*; if the Relieving Officer should find that she had had Three Days Work he would probably take off, not at the Rate of *3s.* 6*d.* a Week, but at the Rate of *2s.* a Week. Such has been the Practice of the Board and the Practice of the Relieving Officer, which it is evident is a different Case from that stated in the Question, which I think would be a great Abuse.

He reports to the next Meeting of the Board?

Always.

Do you ever allow him to increase the Allowance on finding that the Pauper has not earned so much as he expected to earn?

I am hardly able to answer that Question. That seems to me to imply an ambulatory Allowance.

The Pauper may not receive quite so much as he expected to receive; do you in that Case allow the Relieving Officer to increase the Allowance from the Parish?

That would be under a different Rule, another Rule.

Is such an Allowance ever made?

I must explain to your Lordship before I state whether such a Fact has ever occurred. Our Relieving Officers have general Instructions from the Poor Law Commissioners and from the Board to relieve all Cases of Emergency or Destitution, and report them to the Board; if therefore, the Relieving Officer found this Party to be in a State of Destitution or a State of Want from

from not earning so much as expected, he would relieve that Person "on Emergency," and report it to the Board, taking the Chance of the Board confirming that Relief, or mulcting the Relieving Officer, by making him pay the Value out of his own Pocket, if not properly given. *J. P. Barclay, Esq.*

Supposing that the Board had ordered an Allowance to a poor Woman, under the Understanding that she could earn 6*d.* a Day for Six Days in the Week, and that he afterwards found out she could only obtain Work for Three Days in the Week, would he be allowed to increase the Allowance till the next Board Day?

If, as I stated before, he found a Person not able to live upon the Allowance made, and that the Person was therefore in Want, he is bound, under the general Law, finding a Person in such Distress, to relieve him, as we call it, on Emergency; consequently, if the Board did not make an Order sufficient for Relief, it would come under that other Rule, and he must relieve him further.

Do your Relieving Officers understand that?

If your Lordships examine Mr. Wigg I think you will find that he understands sufficiently his Business, when he has Time to have it explained to him, to state that he would do as I have said.

Supposing, on the other hand, a Woman had been before the Board and examined as to her Means of obtaining her Livelihood, and after that Examination she had been allowed 3*s.*, are the Committee to understand that it is the Practice of your Union that the Relieving Officer should have a Discretion, in case he thinks she could earn more in the course of the Week than she states to the Board, to reduce the Allowance ordered by the Board without referring again to them?

In the Question it is stated, "If the Relieving Officer thinks she may have earned more;" that is not the Case; it is, If the Relieving Officer, from Examination of the Party, ascertains that she has earned more,—a very sensible Difference. In the latter Case only the Discretion would be placed in the Relieving Officer to reduce her Allowance, reporting it afterwards to the Board.

Do you think that is a safe Mode, leaving it to the Discretion of the Relieving Officer, and leaving him to report the Circumstance to the Board the next Time they meet?

Taking into Consideration that it applies only to Persons able to work. I think that the Danger would be greater, of permitting a Pauper to receive Relief and Wages at the same Time by reason of our not allowing any Discretion to the Relieving Officer.

Do you think any Addition to the Amount stated in the Representation of the Pauper would be a Fraud committed by the Pauper on the Parish?

Yes, certainly.

If you found afterwards, on the Representation of the Relieving Officer, that the Allowance ought to have been diminished, would it be possible to recover for this fraudulent Excess from the Pauper?

No; we should never recover it.

Then it becomes a Question, whether it is worth while, for the sake of the small Difference which would arise, to run the Risk of inflicting a Hardship upon the Pauper?

It may be small in the particular Case, but taking it in the Aggregate it would be by no means small.

Could not you recover it by stopping it in the next Allowance?

That might have the Effect of starving the Pauper.

Would not the Effect of giving the whole to the Pauper be, to enable the Pauper to commit the same Fraud, and obtain the same Relief Week after Week?

Certainly; and I have no Doubt that if we gave Relief to any Person in that Way, if we deprived the Relieving Officer of this Discretion, we should be defrauded of large Sums of Money.

J. P. Barclay, Esq.

If he reported it to you the next Week, how could you be defrauded; you would inquire into the Grounds of his Belief, and the Fraud could apply only to the short Time between the Meeting of one Board and another?
The other Side of the Question is just in the same Predicament.

How could the Fraud be continued, if he were to report the Circumstance to the next Board?
Because a new Order would be made, which might be evaded in the same Way.

If you found that a Woman had deceived you before, upon this second Inquiry you would desire the Relieving Officer to pay her less?
We dare not do that; if we have done that which we ought to do, namely, relieved her barely according to her Wants, we cannot order the Relieving Officer to pay her less.

Suppose you had found out on Inquiry that her Wants were less, you would reduce it?
For One Week.

Supposing she had said, "I can earn only 1*s.* a Week," and that he reported the next Board Day?
That assumes that she earns that every Week; but her Earnings, like all Women's Earnings in Agricultural Labour, are uncertain.

The Question refers to those Paupers who have a constant Allowance, of whom there are many; supposing you had ascertained that a Woman had an Income of 3*s.*, and had ordered her Relief in consequence, and the Relieving Officer found she has an Income of 3*s.* 6*d.*, would it not be right that he should report that to your Board, and that you should give a fresh Order in consequence of that fresh Information?
I can only say, as before, that if a certain fixed Income were assumed it might be very well to do so, but I do not know any Instance of a certain fixed Income. We take the Case as we find it on a certain Day; we leave the Widow to the Chance of making more or less, unless there is something very striking; the Relieving Officer would not use his Discretion of taking off any Part, unless there were extraordinary Circumstances, and then we should have the Woman up again the next Week.

Would it not be better to leave it to the next Board than to give a Discretion to the Relieving Officer?
That goes upon the Assumption of certain Circumstances. It goes upon the Assumption of a certain fixed Income, which she may always get; she may get it for Ten Weeks, or not for Two Weeks. We do not consider Widows able to earn Money to be placed in the Condition of permanent Cases.

Are there not many who are for Weeks receiving the same Allowance?
Yes; and it is also the Case that we talk Week after Week of revising the Cases of Widows, but we do not do it; it is a very irksome Duty.

Why is the Relieving Officer to have the Discretion of reducing it without the Leave of the Board?
For this Reason, that a Woman may earn, say 6*s.*, and then she is not a Pauper. The Way in which the Relieving Officer has exercised his Discretion has never to my Knowledge produced a Case of Hardship in our Union. I take the warmest Interest in the Union, and I think it must have come to my Knowledge if it had occurred.

Is it not placing a Discretion in the Relieving Officer which more properly belongs to the Board?
No; I think not; I think the Discretion is very wisely placed in the Relieving Officer, and that the Evil of not giving him that Power would be much greater than any Evil which can arise from its Exercise.

Could the Evil be more than that she would receive the Relief for Two or Three Days?
It might be Five Days.

The utmost Evil that could arise would be, that she would receive the additional Sum Four or Five Days longer than she ought to do? *J. P. Barclay, Esq*

The whole Class probably going on in the same Way.

Would not greater Evil arise from the Power of making the Misrepresentation?

The Opportunity of being guilty of Fraud and Misrepresentation would be greatly increased.

What Extent of Fraud can you contemplate from its being left till the next Meeting of the Board?

I can contemplate a Fraud taking place with some Person in such Circumstances every Week, provided we did not stop it by giving an Order for the House.

Do you think it possible that the same Person, having stated that she earned so much, you having inquired into it twice, would try again to impose upon the Relieving Officer?

Their Earnings, being all Agricultural Earnings, are, especially those of Women and Children, uncertain. The same Thing might occur, for any thing I can say to the contrary, Week by Week.

Are there not Women now paid by your Board who have received Relief for Months together of the same Amount?

Yes, there are; there is a large Class of Widows, for instance, some who are Washerwomen, and I never knew a Woman of this last Class who did not say that she earned only 9*d.* or 1*s.* a Week, many, I am sure, earning at the Time on an Average 5*s.* or 6*s.*; but we relieve them as though they only got 9*d.* or 1*s.*

It is the Duty of the Board of Guardians to inquire into those Circumstances?

We find the Board of Guardians no Match for Washerwomen in such Investigations.

Why do not the Relieving Officers inquire, and report it to you the next Board Day, leaving it to your Discretion, rather than make the Deduction in the Middle of the Week?

Because, I think, there would arise by adopting such a Course a large Loss of the Funds of the Union.

Is there not a great Chance that the Relieving Officer may from some Mistake do that which he ought not to do, with respect to the Poor?

The Relieving Officers being Human Beings are liable to do wrong; and what the Consequence might be I cannot exactly say; certainly the poor Person, supposing the Relieving Officer were to act dishonestly towards him, might suffer.

Supposing his Information was incorrect?

That is to say, if he did not do his Duty, and collect Information regarding the Earnings of the Person, the Person might suffer; but that has not been known to occur in Practice. It is the Admission of the proper Party him or herself as to the Earnings which causes the Relieving Officer to stop any Portion of the Relief. I have no Doubt that your Lordships are sufficiently acquainted with the Agricultural Population to know that we are not likely to have less Earnings stated to us by a Labourer than he actually makes.

Supposing the Relieving Officer to have obtained incorrect Information, or not to have made sufficient Inquiry, might he not inflict a great Hardship on the Poor by stopping upon his own Responsibility a Part of that which had been ordered by the Board?

Inasmuch as the Stoppage takes place on the Admission of the Party, I do not see how Evil can occur.

Supposing that he obtained his Information elsewhere, and that he preferred giving Credit to that Information to any Denial of the Pauper?

That would be a very bad Exercise of the Discretion, which the Board would immediately stop; but that Exercise of Discretion I have never known to occur.

J. P. Barclay, Esq.

Is not the leaving that to the Discretion of the Relieving Officer open to the Possibility of that arising?

Certainly it is liable to Abuse; I do not know any thing that is not.

Would it not be a great Encouragement to others to attempt to deceive the Board as much as they can with respect to their Earnings, if the Relieving Officer did not stop a Part in such Case?

It would certainly afford a Premium for such Attempts.

Would not the Examination by the Board weekly detect that?

We have so many Paupers,—I think 1,709 Cases of Out-door Relief,—we could not examine into them all weekly.

Supposing the Relieving Officer should be mistaken, and should take more from the Pauper's Allowance than he ought, the Pauper cannot get relieved, except by applying to the Board of Guardians?

Yes; the Overseer of the Poor, if he finds a Person in want, will relieve him.

Could the Pauper be relieved against that Act of Oppression, supposing it committed by the Relieving Officer, in having taken that from him, without an Appeal to the Board of Guardians?

I must refer to the Rule I mentioned; and under that Rule I think that the Pauper might be relieved, namely, by applying either to the Relieving Officer, stating his Wants, if the Party informing the Relieving Officer was mistaken, or to the Overseer of the Poor, who is entitled to relieve in Kind.

That is in case of absolute Destitution?

Yes.

Short of that he could not be relieved, except by the Board of Guardians?

Yes, there is another Way; he might go to the House and demand Admission to the House.

How far, in some Instances, in your Union, would he have to travel to make this Appeal?

The furthest Point of our Union is about Thirteen Miles from the House.

Is there any Mode of obtaining a Conveyance, or must he walk there?

If the Paupers have no Money to pay I suppose they have no Means of getting Conveyance.

Then if he is lame he cannot get there at all. Does not he take his Family with him?

If a particular Instance is given, an A. B. Case, I will answer it; but I am answering very general Questions, my Answers to be applied to particular Statements.

He must travel Thirteen Miles to appeal against the Officer taking more from him than he ought?

Certainly; and so he must to go to the Board.

A Man, in however great Distress, cannot get Relief except by going Thirteen Miles?

That is not the Case; he may apply to the Overseer if the Case referred to is a Case of great Distress.

Supposing that the Overseer or Relieving Officer refuses Relief, can he get Relief without appealing to the Board of Guardians, whatever his Distress may be?

The Magistrate has the Right of giving Relief in Kind to a Person out of the House, whom he knows himself to be in want; and the Instructions of the Commissioners state that.

Has he Power to assist an able-bodied Man, though he has not a Bit of Food to put into his Mouth?

The Difficulty I have in answering your Lordships arises from these Things never occurring. I have had Two Years and a Half Practice in the new Poor Law, and I never knew of such a Case.

Are you aware of this Provision in the Act, "Provided always, that any Justice of the Peace shall be empowered to give a similar Order for Medical Relief (only) to any Parishioner as well as Out-parishioner, where any Case of sudden and dangerous Illness may require it"? *J. P. Barclay, Esq.*

I am perfectly aware of that Clause. It is now recalled to my Recollection, which it was not immediately on the former Question, owing to such Things never having occurred in Practice.

A Person not wanting Medical Relief must go to the Board of Guardians; there is no Provision for his being conveyed there?

I have known Paupers conveyed to the Board.

Are you aware of any Provision compelling the Guardians to find them Conveyance?

There is nothing in the Act of Parliament compelling them, that I am aware of.

Are you not aware that an Overseer or Relieving Officer refuses at his Peril to give Relief?

I am aware that the Overseer is subject to an Indictment if he refuses Relief in an urgent Case.

If a Pauper has the Right, as has been suggested, is it at all likely he would be refused a Conveyance by the Overseer?

Families are frequently removed in Carts by the Overseer or Relieving Officer, and it is allowed by the Board in their Accounts as Out-door Relief.

How many Overseers are generally elected in your Parishes?

Two.

And Two Churchwardens?

Yes; generally.

There are therefore Four Persons in every one of the Forty Parishes of the Union capable of meeting any Question of Emergency, besides the Relieving Officers and the Justices?

Yes. I do not recollect at the Moment the Clause of the Act, but I rather think that the Clause to which I refer is the 27th, which, on Reference, I find, runs thus: "And be it further enacted, that in any Union which may be formed under this Act it shall be lawful for any Two of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace, usually acting for the District wherein such Union may be situated, at their just and proper Discretion, to direct, by Order under their Hands and Seals, that Relief shall be given to any adult Person who shall, from old Age or Infirmity of Body, be wholly unable to work, without requiring that such Person shall reside in any Workhouse: Provided always, that One of such Justices shall certify in such Order, of his own Knowledge, that such Person is wholly unable to work as aforesaid; and provided further, that such Person shall be lawfully entitled to Relief in such Union, and shall desire to receive the same out of a Workhouse."

With respect to the Power that the Relieving Officer has of giving Relief out of Doors upon his own View of the Case, are you not aware that there is a Column in the Relieving Officer's Book marked, "The Relief given, if any, at the Discretion of the Relieving Officer"?

Yes; and that is frequently acted on in Kind, not in Money.

That is more frequently confirmed by the Board of Guardians than the reverse?

It is generally confirmed by the Board of Guardians; but I have known the reverse.

Those Instances are rare?

Those Instances are very rare.

That proves that the Relieving Officers exercise this Discretion in a Manner conformable to the Views of the Board of Guardians?

Certainly.

J. P. Barclay, Esq.

If a Pauper is not in a Condition to appear before the Board of Guardians, do you allow other Friends to appear for him?
A Wife frequently appears for her sick Husband.

Have you any Instance of Children appearing for their Parents?
Yes.

A. states to the Board that she earns 3*s.* per Week; the Board inquire, and order 1*s.* 6*d.* per Week; the Relieving Officer, in the course of the Week, upon Inquiry, conceives that she can earn 3*s.* 6*d.*: is it desirable that the Relieving Officer should exercise his own Discretion, and stop 6*d.* out of the Allowance at once?
If the Relieving Officer stopped 6*d.* under the Circumstances mentioned, that he conceives or had satisfied himself that she could earn an additional 6*d.*, he would do wrong; he must first ascertain that she has earned the additional 6*d.*

In that Case he would report to the Board next Week that he knew this Woman could earn more, and submit to them whether they would diminish that Allowance?
Added to which, he would not have stopped the 6*d.* in such a Case; if he knew that she had earned 3*s.* 6*d.* he would not stop more than 2*s.*

Do not you conceive this to be a just Definition of the Exercise of that Discretion by the Relieving Officer, that when a material Change, at a Time subsequent to the Order, occurred in the Circumstances of the Pauper, you would expect him to adjust the Relief given?
Yes; that is the Case, and then report to the Board.

Were you acquainted with the Administration of the Poor Laws before the new Poor Law?
I attended the Select Vestry Two Years.

Was it not in the Power of the Overseers at that Time to stop any Relief they might think unnecessary?
Yes; I have known it stopped very improperly sometimes.

Do you not think, in giving that Power to the Relieving Officer you give him no more Power than that formerly enjoyed by the Overseers?
I do not conceive we give him so much Power, inasmuch as the Relieving Officer (being the Hands and Eyes of the Board only) must report to the Board what he has done, and they will allow or disallow what he has done. The Overseers at Select Vestry had a discretionary Power to do what they pleased; the Magistrates could not compel them to give Relief.

Have you any Reason to suppose that the Relieving Officers have in their Nature less Humanity than the old Overseers?
We choose them, among other Qualifications, for their being Men who will not get us into a Scrape, and therefore we try to select humane, steady, and quiet Men.

And also having the Recommendation of being saving Men?
No; I did not say that.

Were the old Overseers chosen with a view to those Qualities?
They were generally chosen, so far as my Experience goes, for being Persons who could be easiest got to do the Work of the Parish.

Has there been any Order at any Time, either verbal or otherwise, given to your Relieving Officer, to suggest to poor People that they had better remove with their Families into Lancashire, on account of the better Wages which may be obtained there?
Yes; I have no Doubt we have often told the Relieving Officers to say so to the People.

On what Ground do you do that?
We do not do it now; we have done it, as I stated in the course of Yesterday, whilst we were in the habit of recommending Migration to Lancashire and other Northern Districts.

Supposing Persons are under Relief from your Board, and that they feel that at any Time the Board may order them into the Workhouse, and refuse them Relief out of it, and at the same Time it is suggested to them that they had better go into Lancashire, is it not very likely they may think that they must go into the Workhouse unless they go into Lancashire? *J. P. Barclay, Esq.*

I think it is very likely that the poor Population may think so, and I think it is no Hardship at all if they do.

Do you think that at all likely to promote Migration; on the contrary, is it not likely to raise a Feeling against Migration?

The People in Suffolk are so rooted to the Soil, it is extremely difficult to drive them out by the Prospect of any Advantages whatever. We have seen Instances of Persons in the deepest Distress who say that they had rather stop and die than move, but I do not know how they could be induced to move, unless it were proved to them how much better off they might be in Lancashire than at home. That is what we used to do, but which we do not now.

Would it not be better that they should be left to express a Wish to remove to a Place where they might get better Wages than that it should be so suggested as to hold up a Sort of Alternative between Migration and the Workhouse?

Individually I should feel no Difficulty in giving Relief in the Manner which would be most disagreeable to the Pauper, if he refused the Advantage which was offered of Work in Lancashire.

Since the Work in Lancashire is not within their Reach, and that must come from the Poor Law Commissioners, would it not be better that it should be held out to them without its being possible for it to be supposed that the Alternative was their being sent to the Workhouse?

If the Object was to get them to go I think that would not do, for they would not go on any such low Tone of Statement, if I may so call it.

Is not that Practice of suggesting it to them likely to set the poor People against the Migration, rather than otherwise?

I really cannot form any Opinion upon that Subject.

Did you give them the same Kind of Hint with respect to going to Canada or New South Wales?

Yes; we have often given such Advice.

Do you mean given from the Board, or privately?

When we have seen a good Subject for Emigration I have no Doubt it may have occurred; but I have no Recollection that it has occurred; we may have said at the Board, "You would be a great deal better off if you went to Canada."

"And if you stay you may go to the Workhouse"?

No; we have never mixed the Subject of Emigration or migrating to the North with the Subject of their going to the Workhouse so as to connect them. I have been asked Yesterday, whether a poor Person might not so connect them, and I have said, some might so connect them, for they have been mentioned almost at the same Moment.

You give a Hint to them, "If you do not go to the Factories in Lancashire you may go to the Workhouse or to Botany Bay"?

No; I have never made such a Statement.

Have you recommended them to go, and made them understand from your Recommendation, that if they did not go they would go to the Workhouse?

My Answer was with reference to the Case put Yesterday. I have stated that in the Case of Susan Ling it was particularly asked, was she ever given to understand that if she did not go to Lancashire she should go into the Workhouse? I stated No; then I was asked, whether she might not have considered, from our mentioning her going into Lancashire, and then giving her an Order for the Workhouse, that they were connected. I stated, that as it was mentioned at the same Time, that she did not do the best she could to provide for her Family, and we conceived that she might maintain her Family if she would,

J. P. Barclay, Esq.

would, that she might refer the Suggestion of going into the Workhouse, if made, to either of those Circumstances.

You state that the Board of Guardians are not in the habit of connecting those Two Alternatives, of migrating or emigrating or being sent to the Workhouse; but in point of fact those Parties whom you consider fit Subjects for Migration or Emigration, being able-bodied Persons, and being out of Employment, unless they migrate or emigrate, are not fit Subjects for Out-door Relief, and therefore must, by the Rules of the Commissioners and the Practice in your Union, be relieved in the Workhouse?

In the Case of a Man that would be so; in the Case of Widows, we have never yet offered the Widows the Test of the Workhouse,—a Test which I individually think we ought to have applied,—taking off the Out-door Allowance.

Might not the ignorant People in your Union have Reason to complain, if you withheld from them the Information how they might better their Condition?

If they did not complain they would have good Reason for Complaint. I think it is our Duty to afford them Information how they may better their Circumstances.

In giving them that Information do you communicate to them the Circumstances of the Case, the Description of Labour they have to perform, and so on?

I do not think we knew it, therefore we could not communicate it.

You communicate only the Earnings, withholding from them all further Information, which, if known, might influence the Decision of the Paupers?

We communicate all the Information we have got upon the Subject.

Have you no Information of the Sort of Work they would have?

I have no Information of the Sort of Work; but with respect to our Suffolk People, I suppose it is not very hard Work, in comparison to what they have to do.

You have not inquired what Sort of Employment they would have to perform if they went?

We understood it was Work in the Factories.

Do not you think it would have been as well for you to have ascertained the Sort of Work, and how far it was likely to be detrimental to their Health or otherwise?

I consider that the Poor Law Commissioners recommended this Migration into Lancashire. They are before the Public, and subject to many critical Eyes, and I conceive they would take care not to make a Statement which they could not support. They stated there was plenty of Work, not detrimental to the People, which could be had in Lancashire, and I took it for granted they were right.

Did not you think it very desirable that the poor People should know the Sort of Work which they were likely to have to do?

That had been done; Labourers, well-conducted People, went into Lancashire; this took place, I think, from Hadleigh, and in the Blything Union. The Men gave a good Account of the Lancashire Manufactories, and we knew this to have occurred before we sent our Migrants.

So that you suppose the poor People were aware of the Sort of Work they would be called upon to perform?

Not of the particular Work, but we had heard enough to know that we might safely recommend it to our Paupers.

Did you not think it right to lay before your Paupers the particular Sort of Work, and the Manner in which they would be called upon to earn their Wages in Lancashire?

If we had known the Circumstances it would have been our Duty to have acquainted them with them, but I do not think we were minutely acquainted with the Subject.

Why did you not acquaint yourselves with the Subject?

We have a great deal to do, and perhaps neglect a Part.

Do you conceive that the Employment of those Children in the Factories would be more laborious than picking up Stones and Crow-tending in February? *J. P. Barclay, Esq.*

I have never seen it done; but I know that there are plenty of Children employed in Lancashire, and I never heard that the Lancashire People were a very miserable People; and I supposed that our People, getting Double or Treble Wages there, would be very well off.

Are you not aware that the Labourers in some Places appointed Deputies, who went down at the Expense of the Poor Law Commissioners, and came back and gave a Report to their Neighbours of what they had seen?

I believe that took place in Princes Risborough.

Do you know what induced those Labourers to come back again who returned and spoke so well of the Factories?

Some Labourers Migrants returned dissatisfied. The Board of Guardians were repeatedly cautioned not to send any but the best of Characters into Lancashire. I have often cautioned them, "Take care how you send a Man of bad Character; it may turn out a Case of serious Expense;" nevertheless the Board of Guardians, anxious to get rid of People with large Families, sent into Lancashire some Men with the worst of Characters. The Consequence was, they came back. alleging various Causes; some alleged the Cause to be that their Masters became unfortunate; few of them stated it to be their own Fault.

None of them stated it to be the Nature of the Work?

One Man stated that he had to carry the Cinders from the Works, and did not like it, and came back.

You are aware that there is a considerable Degree of Confinement connected with this Work; do not you think, before they are persuaded to migrate with their Families, they should be made fully aware of all those Circumstances?

Certainly, it would be our Duty to put them into Possession of all those Circumstances; but if a very large Family is earning in Suffolk 10*s.* or 12*s.* a Week, on which it is a perfect Miracle to me how they can subsist, all I know being that they do live on it,—if such a Family could earn 35*s.* or 40*s.* in Lancashire they could hardly be worse off under any Circumstances in Lancashire than in Suffolk.

Would not that be a Matter for them to judge of?

They have sufficient to induce them to stay in their Attachment to the Soil; nothing but the Wages being so much higher would form a sufficiently strong Motive to them to overcome that Feeling, and induce them to go.

Supposing those Wages could be earned only by a Sacrifice of Health on the Part of the Children or any of the Family, should they not be aware that that would be a Condition dependent upon their earning those Wages?

Certainly, if we were aware of it; but I am not aware that the Confinement is such in Lancashire, or Cheshire, or Yorkshire,—for we have sent Migrants to all Three Counties,—as to affect the Health.

Would it not be right they should be put into Possession of all the Information you possessed upon that Subject?

Certainly.

They knew they were to work under Cover, though the exact Nature of the Work you had not the Power to state to them?

Certainly; they were aware it was quite a different Thing from Suffolk Work; they have often asked what they were to do; we told them it was to work in the Cotton Manufactories.

You stated that you altered your Opinion of the Desirableness of sending them to the Employment in the Cotton Manufactories; was that in consequence of having obtained further Information respecting them, or was it from your finding that it was an unprofitable Speculation to the Union?

It was partly from the one Cause and partly from the other. We found that the Manufactories would engage to employ the Children for Three Years. In some Cases, in consequence of a Change of Times, they put the Hands on

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Half Time, and did not fulfil their Contract, and we saw no Means of enforcing the Contract. Another Reason was, that having sent so many bad People, and having them sent back to us, it was a heavy Expense.

You did not wish to get rid of the best Labourers, and it was expensive to part with the worst?

No; we did not wish to part with the best; and I can mention a Conversation which passed between Dr. Gordon Brock and myself when he was sent to canvass for Labourers for South Australia. He stated that he wanted Labourers; I asked him of what Kind; he answered that he wanted young Men between Twenty and Thirty, of good Character, sober, industrious, and every thing that was excellent: I said I knew none such willing to go, that he might have a few Poachers or Characters of that Kind, but that he could have none of the others; to which he replied "What a Fool I have been made of in this Journey, for the Government have sent me to this and the neighbouring Three Counties to select Labourers, and I have not had Three Offers of Labour in the whole District!"

It has been stated with regard to Widow Graystone, that her Children at one Time earned 3*s.* 6*d.* per Week, that she kept a Beer House and a small Sort of Shop, that she was allowed a certain Sum by the Parish, and that Allowance was stopped, and she was offered the House; do you remember that Circumstance?

Yes.

Why, when her Children could earn 3*s.* 6*d.*, and she could earn something at the Beer House, did the Board prefer ordering her into the Workhouse to giving her the small Relief she had received before?

I believe it was mainly attributable,—but this is merely my Inference,—to her setting up a Beer Shop, and its being known that her Father was a Smuggler, and its being suspected that she did not get her Living in the most honest possible Way.

There was an old Man of Ninety Years old, the Father-in-law of Widow Smith; did you know him?

No.

You know there was such a Man?

I have inquired into the Circumstances, and know there was such a Person.

The Relieving Officer has stated to the Committee that he found this Man in a very filthy and dirty State, that his Daughter had, to use his Expression, robbed him of his Linen, so that he had no Change of Linen; and he has also stated that the old Man was left for Five Days in that State, without any Report being made to the Board; and he also states that no Medical Relief of any Kind was sent to that Man, being dying from old Age, for that Number of Days; were the Board ever cognizant of those Circumstances, and if they were cognizant of those Circumstances how happened it that they did not send Medical Relief and Linen for that Man?

Had the Board of Guardians been cognizant of any such Circumstances I am perfectly certain every thing would have been done for the Party; I am sure that the Board never were cognizant of the Circumstances.

Was it not the Duty of the Relieving Officer to have reported those Circumstances?

Certainly.

He should have done it as early as possible?

It was his Duty to do that at the first Opportunity; in the meantime it was his Duty to have provided for that Party every thing he could possibly require; he should have found Linen and Medical Attendance. He might safely have incurred the Expense of 20*s.* or 30*s.* for an aged Person under Circumstances like those with a perfect Certainty that the Board would confirm his Order when it came before them.

This Man had a Son, an able-bodied Labourer, living with him, who had Furniture of his own, and Bed Linen?

Those Circumstances would induce me to suppose that the Relieving Officer

did

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did not apply to the Board, supposing that the Son ought to have done it himself. I beg to assure your Lordships that we do every thing we can to keep our Relieving Officers up to their Duty, but it is impossible to find Men who are perfect.

How many ex officio Guardians have you in your Union?
Six or Seven.

Do they attend very much?
Not very much.

If they attended would it be beneficial to your Union?
There is no Doubt of it, and it would be a great Relief to me if they did.

Who are they?
They are all the Magistrates living in the Union,— Lord Rendlesham, Mr. Arcedeckne, Mr. Long, the Reverend Mr. Wilson, the Reverend Mr. Groom Captain Shafto, and Mr. Moseley.

Is Mr. Shuldham the Chairman a Magistrate?
He is not. I wish they were in the habit of attending more.

Do the Board of Guardians attend the Union as much as they used to do?
Quite as much; they are very regular in their Attendance.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned to Monday next, Twelve o'Clock.

Die Lunæ, 28° Maii 1838.

The Lord WHARNCLIFFE in the Chair.

Evidence on the Operation of the Poor Law Amendment Act.

Hannah Brown.

HANNAH BROWN is called in, and examined as follows:

WHERE do you live?
I live at Lichborough.

What Age are you?
I was Fifty-four the last February.

You have a Son who is a Cripple, have not you?
Yes.

What is the Matter with him?
He had a White Swelling in his Knee.

What Effect has the Swelling had upon his Knee?
At one Time he could not walk without Two Crutches, and was very ill indeed; many Times I have been obliged to hold him in my Lap for Hours while he was in violent Pain.

Is he better of that now?
Yes.

Can he walk about now tolerably well?
Yes, with One Crutch.

Had you Relief from the Parish during that Time?
Not lately; I had about Christmas.

Had you ever any before?
No.

Had he any Relief from the Parish?
He had 1*s.* 6*d.*

Had you ever applied for Relief before last Christmas?
Yes, many Times.

They would not give you Relief?
No.

When did you first apply for Relief; was it some Years ago?
In the Christmas my Husband died; I was left with Four Children; they behaved very well to me; that was Ten Years ago last 19th of March. They allowed me 8*s.* a Week; they behaved very well to me till the Poor Law Bill, till Mr. Wyse was Overseer; then they took it off. I can hardly recollect, but I think first they took it off to 5*s.*, then it was taken off further; Mr. Wyse took it off to 2*s.* 6*d.*, 1*s.* 6*d.* for my lame Boy, and 1*s.* for a Girl that was either Nine or Ten Years of Age, and I had nothing myself. I was obliged to do for my Family, and at the same Time we were in Want of Bread; my Boy who is a Cripple can say that; this with me is my Son, who has taken my lame Boy.

What Age was the Son who is here now when your Husband died?
He was Nineteen.

What is he?
A Tailor.

Where?
In Bradford.

Hannah Brown.

When your Pay was stopped what Age was your eldest Son?
I should think I had it for Six Years; it was when the Workhouses were first being built.

They did not stop any Part of it till the new Poor Law Bill came in?
They stopped a Part of it then; I went to the Church; there was a Vestry there, and Mr. Wyse was there, the Overseer, and he had stopped it to *2s. 6d.*

The first Stoppage was to *5s.*?
I think so; I will not be positive.

Was that after the new Poor Law came in, or was it under the old Poor Law?
Under the old.

Had it been stopped to *2s. 6d.* under the new?
Yes.

Was the Son who is here living with you at the Time it was stopped to *5s.*?
No.

Had he gone to live at Bradford at that Time, or where was he?
He was seeking Work.

You do not know that he was settled in any Place?
No.

Had he done any thing towards your Maintenance?
No.

How came he not to do any thing towards your Maintenance?
He was far from me.

There is a Way of sending Money; did he send you any Money at any Time?
No.

Do you know what his Earnings were at that Time?
No.

You knew nothing about him?
No; he was away Three Years; I did not know any thing of him at the Time.

What other Children have you besides the Cripple and the Girl you speak of?
Two more.

Have you Five Children at home with you?
I was left with Four.

When your Allowance was reduced to *5s.* how many had you at home?
Four.

What was the Age of the eldest at that Time?
That was a Daughter; she never enjoys good Health; but I have got Two more Daughters besides her, One, who is very ill now, besides her with the Scald Head.

Was the Scald Head sufficient to prevent her doing Work out of Doors?
She could work out of Doors, but sometimes she does Lace-making; she does not get above *6d.* a Week, when she has paid her Schooling, and found her Gimp, which is required.

This went on till there was a Talk of putting this crippled Son of yours as an Apprentice, did not it?
Mr. Wyse said he wished him to have his Limb cut off very much; I was not willing; I promised his Father on his Death-bed that I would never have it off.

When was that?
When about my Money was stopped. Mr. Wyse has many Times wanted his Limb to be cut off; I was not willing; he used to say, "You shall not be lying about the Town much longer; I will send you to the big House, and will

Hannah Brown.

will get shut of you as soon as possibly I can; the Place is building, and you shall go as soon as it is ready." I cried very much about it, and he said, "You shall not have any Relief for them unless you are willing for him to go." I wrote immediately to my Son at Bradford. Nobody would take him, because he is such a Cripple, and I trusted that he would be good to him, and then I went round the Town to ask their Leave to let him go. I asked Mr. Wyse; he said, "Now they had allowed him this Money,"—he did not seem agreeable,—he said, "Now we have allowed him this Money, you are going to find Means;" he did not seem agreeable at first, but I wrote to my Son, and he went Apprentice.

Did the Parish give any Premium with him?
No.

Did they clothe him?
There is something left on Purpose to put them Apprentice.

Did they give a Fee out of that Money?
There is so much left for Boys to go Apprentice.

That goes as a Fee to the Master?
Yes.

Did the Parish clothe the Boy before he went to his Work?
No; there was a Friend who begged him a Trifle.

Did they give your crippled Boy any Clothes when he left you?
No.

Since he left you what Relief have you had?
I had no Relief, except 1*s.* with my Girl, who has a Scald Head, till about a Week before Christmas; then they allowed me 2*s.* a Week for Three Months. At the Time I had a very bad Fall, and broke one of my Ribs. I fell down in the Frost, and was obliged to keep my Bed, and applied to the Relieving Officer, being obliged to have some one to attend upon me; and then after that he allowed me 1*s.* till I was better. Then I went to the Board for this Girl; they took my Girl's off who has a Scald Head; she is in her Twelfth Year. I have got another Daughter, Fifteen Years of Age, who has never done any thing for Two Months or more; I kept her for a Month, then I went to the Board for her. They had taken the Girl's 1*s.* a Week off a Month before they took the other 6*d.* off me, and gave me 4*s.* till I was quite well; 1*s.* 6*d.* for her Fifteen Years of Age, and 2*s.* 6*d.* for me, and now they have taken mine off. Last Thursday I made my Complaints to the Relieving Officer, and told him I could not do at all with my Children, who were not well, without some Relief, and he said, out of his own Pocket he would give me Two Sixpenny Loaves. I had no more than 1*s.* 6*d.* for her who was ill.

Why did they take off the Allowance for the Daughter of yours, did they tell you?
They said she was old enough to get her Living; that she must get her own Living. I had her to the Board with me.

How old is she?
One was Fifteen that I received the 1*s.* 6*d.* for; the other with the Scald Head is Twelve Years of Age.

Did you get the Relief all in Money, or some in Bread?
I had Two Loaves in Bread when my Boy was with me; Eight Sixpenny Loaves and 8*d.* in Money.

When he left you they took off a Part?
Yes, all but 1*s.* They gave me only Two Sixpenny Loaves for her that has a Scald Head; she was not quite Ten.

Did they ever threaten in any Way to take off a Loaf from you?
Not till they had taken it off; I do not recollect that they did.

Was there any Conversation between you and the Relieving Officer or any of the Guardians about any thing that had happened at Bradford with regard to your crippled Son?
Yes.

Hannah Brown.

When was that?
The Relieving Officer informed me that he had received some Writing on account of me, I think he said.

What else did he say?
He asked me several Questions about my Boy, when he went Apprentice, and whether I received the Money. I told him I received 1*s.* 6*d.* with him when in Want, and 1*s.* with the Girl who had a Scald Head.

They never talked of stopping a Loaf from you on account of any thing which had passed about your Son at Bradford?
I cannot say.

You have not any Relief for yourself?
No, I have not.

Have you seen your Boy who is a Cripple here?
Yes; I saw him this Morning.

Had you seen him before since he went down to Bradford?
No.

How is he?
He seems hearty and well.

Is he better than he was?
Yes; he is not like the same.

He is so much better?
Yes.

Did Mr. Smale of Bradford call upon you?
Yes, I think on Easter Sunday, to ask me what I received a Week at that Time. I told him I received at that Time my 3*s.*; I was very poorly indeed; my Girl was ill at the Time. He said, "What do you receive with her?" I said, "Nothing," but he said, "What do you receive with this Girl who has a Cap on?" I said, "I received nothing with her, because they have taken her Money off for about a Month, but I am going to the Board and will take her with me."

Mr. Grant has a good deal of Land there, has not he?
Yes.

Does he attend the Board?
No; I do not think he does.

Is not he a Magistrate?
No.

Who came up with you?
Another Son, who is with me, not this.

What Age is he?
Thirty Years of Age.

Is he living at Lichborough?
No; he lives with his Grandfather at Woodend.

What is he?
He is a Butcher, but he is very aged, and he keeps him now to learn him the Business.

Is he married?
Yes, and has Two Children.

Is he enabled to do any thing for you?
No, nothing at all.

Does he carry on the Trade of a Butcher?
He does a little, as far as he can.

How long has he done that?
A Twelvemonth ago he was with my Father, till my Father was so infirm he could not do it; now he keeps my Father; he cannot do any thing at all for me.

What

Hannah Brown

What was your Husband?
A Day Labourer.

You have had Two Husbands?
Yes.

Were they both Day Labourers?
Yes.

Have you any Children not at home?
Yes; One, a Daughter, married to a labouring Man.

Do you work as a Lacemaker?
Yes, I do a little; but there is nothing to be got by Lace-making now like what it used to be.

How near is Towcester to Woodend?
Five Miles.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

John Brown.

JOHN BROWN is called in, and examined as follows:

YOU are the Son of Hannah Brown, who has just been in here?
Yes.

You are at Bradford now?
Yes.

Whom are you living with at Bradford?
My Brother.

What is his Name?
Samuel Pitten.

He is your Mother's Son by a former Husband?
Yes.

He is a Tailor at Bradford?
Yes.

You are his Apprentice?
Yes.

How long have you been his Apprentice?
I think a Year and a Half now.

Had you ever tried to be bound Apprentice in your own Neighbourhood?
No, never.

You never looked out for a Place, either you or your Mother?
No.

Were not you at a public Meeting at Bradford in the Beginning of last Year with Mr. Bull?
Yes.

Had you had much Conversation with Mr. Bull before that Meeting?
No.

Had you seen him?
I went up to the Meeting with him.

Had not you seen him before you went up to the Meeting with him?
No.

How came you to go up to the Meeting with him?
There was a Gentleman told him I was come from such a Place, and he came for me.

Who was that Gentleman?
Squire Auty.

John Brown.

Who is Squire Auty?
He was a Painter by Trade.

What did he propose to you to do?
He wanted me to go with him to speak the Truth about the new Poor Law in our Part, where I had lived before.

You went with Mr. Bull?
Yes.

Did Mr. Bull ask you before you went what you knew about the new Poor Law?
He did ask me a few Questions when I was in his Gig with him, going up.

Can you state what Questions he asked you when you were in the Gig with him?
He asked me whether ever I was in a Workhouse, and I told him, no; that they were bound to put me in.

What were they bound to put you into the Workhouse for?
Because my Mother could not keep me very well.

They were going to take you into the Workhouse, and then your Brother took you as an Apprentice?
Yes.

You told him that?
Yes.

Did you tell him any thing else?
Yes; I told him a few more Things.

Did you tell him any thing about a Girl being flogged?
He asked me whether I ever knew anybody who went into this Workhouse.

What did you say in answer to that?
Yes, I said; I knew a Lass that I was very well acquainted with that went in.

What else?
Then he asked me if I had ever known of any one being flogged in there, and I told him it was reported that this Lass was flogged.

Did you tell him that you knew it of your own Knowledge?
No; I did not tell him that I knew it of my own Knowledge.

But you told him that you had heard that this Lass was flogged?
Yes.

Did you tell him that she had been stripped and flogged with a Cat-o'-nine-tails?
I was asked how she was flogged, and I said it was reported that they flogged her with a Whip.

Who asked you that?
The Folks that were in the Meeting.

Did Mr. Bull ask you that?
Yes.

Did you tell Mr. Bull that the Girl was stripped and was flogged upon her bare Back like a Soldier?
No; that was a Mistake; the Folks that were in there did not understand quite.

Did you tell him that she was flogged with a Cat-o'-nine-tails?
No.

With a Whip having Eight or Ten Lashes?
That Question was put to me; I told them I did not know whether she was flogged with that, but it was reported that they did flog with it.

You are sure that you did not tell him that she was flogged on the bare Back like a Soldier?
No.

John Brown.

All this you said you heard by Report; you did not know it yourself?
No.

Did you tell him that it was generally believed in your Neighbourhood?
Yes.

Where did you hear it?
This Lass and I was very much acquainted; they came and told me as soon as the Report was brought to the Village.

Who came and told you?
I am sure I cannot tell the Name; it is a long while since; some Neighbour that lived next Door to us.

Did you ever see her afterwards?
No.

Had you any Opportunity of asking her whether it was true?
No.

How long before you left the Place had you heard this Report of her being there and having been flogged?
About a Month.

Was her Name Jane Adams?
Yes.

When they proposed to take you into the Workhouse had you any great Objection to go into the Workhouse?
I did not want to go in, and my Mother did not want me to go in; they said they should put me away from my Mother and Sisters.

Do you mean that if you went into the Workhouse you would of course be separated from them, they remaining in their Cottage?
Yes.

Was there any thing else that made you dislike going into the Workhouse?
They used to say that they would cut my Leg off if I went in.

They had recommended to your Mother more than once that your Leg should be cut off?
Yes.

Had you ever seen the Doctor about your Leg?
Yes.

The Parish sent the Doctor, perhaps?
Yes; and we had a Doctor ourselves.

Did those Doctors recommend the cutting off of your Leg?
No, not one of them; my Leg is quite well now.

What made you think that they would cut your Leg off if you went into the Workhouse?
They used to tell my Mother so.

Who used to tell your Mother that they would cut your Leg off?
John Wyse used to say so.

That was one of the Reasons you did not like to go into the Workhouse?
Yes.

Did you ever hear him say so?
No.

Your Mother told you that?
Yes.

Were there any other Reasons why you did not wish to go into the Workhouse?
I cannot say.

Had you heard that the People were very ill-treated in the Workhouse?
Yes; I had heard they were used very bad.

In what Way were they used bad?
That they used to cut their Hair off, my Mother used to tell me.

John Brown.

Did you ever see any of the Boys in the Workhouse who had had their Hair cut off?
No.

Your Mother used to tell you that?
Yes, and the Neighbours in the Village used to tell me so.

You never saw them, and did not know how their Hair was cut?
No.

Were there any Complaints of the Food in the Workhouse, or any thing of that Sort?
No; I never heard any thing of that Sort.

You knew you were to be kept in the Workhouse, and not allowed to go out of it?
Yes.

Was that one of your Reasons?
Yes.

Was the cutting off the Hair the only Thing you heard you disliked in the Workhouse?
They used to say they had not enough Victuals to eat.

Did you ever see anybody who had been in the Workhouse who complained of that?
No.

Did you ever see any other Boy who had been in the Workhouse who complained of his having his Hair cut off?
No.

Have you seen any Boys who have been in the Workhouse?
No.

You never had any Conversation with any Boys who had been in the Workhouse?
No; they were all so frightened at going in; they did not like to go in.

All you heard about the Workhouse was merely from other People, and not from Persons who had been in the Workhouse?
All from other People.

Are you comfortable at Bradford with your Brother?
Yes.

Has he a pretty good Trade?
Yes.

Are you learning the Trade?
Yes.

So that you will be able to earn your own Bread, without being dependent on any one?
I hope so.

Has your Brother a Journeyman?
Yes.

How many?
There were Five when I left.

Has he any Apprentice beside you?
Yes, Three.

Do you know your Brother the Butcher?
Yes.

Where does he live?
At Woodend.

What Sort of Business does he carry on?
A very good one.

John Brown.

Do you know how many Beasts he kills in the course of the Week?
No; but he sells a deal of Meat.

He has a Wife and Two Children?
Yes.

What Age are the Children?
One Twelve, I think, and the other Nine.

Has your Brother the Name of Brown or Pittem?
Pittem.

You have no other Brother?
No.

You have some Sisters?
Yes.

One married?
Yes.

She has a Family?
Yes.

Whom has she married?
Henry Lawrence.

What is he?
He is a Farmer's Man, and drives a Waggon.

A Waggoner to a Farmer?
Yes.

Where are your other Sisters?
They are living with my Mother.

What do they do?
They work at Lace-making.

Do you know what they earn?
No; but it is quite small.

What does your Mother do?
She goes in the Fields when she can.

In whose House does she live?
Mr. Robert Waite's.

What Sort of a House is it?
A pretty good House.

Is there a good Garden?
No, no Garden.

Do you know what Rent she pays?
2l. a Year.

Do you know whether your Brother carries on the Business of a Butcher on his own Account?
Yes.

Does he support your Grandfather?
Yes.

Did your Grandfather put him into Business?
Yes.

He made over the Business to him?
Yes.

He is carrying on the Business with his own Money?
I believe that my Grandfather has assisted him in the Business, now and then.

You told the Committee that one of your Reasons for not liking to go into the Workhouse was from the Fear of being separated from your Mother; were you told that your Mother would not be allowed to see you?
Yes.

John Brown.

Were you told if she was allowed to see you how she would be allowed to see you?
They used to tell me there would be a Gentleman come with her; they would not let her come by herself.

Was there any Talk about speaking to her only through a Hole in the Wall?
It was reported in the Village that I could see her only through a Hole in the Wall.

That was one of the Reasons of your being afraid?
Yes.

But you knew nothing of that, only from hearing it in the Village?
No.

Did any Person who had been in the Workhouse say that?
No.

You told Mr. Bull this?
Yes.

Was that before you went to the Meeting with him, or after?
I told him at the Meeting.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Samuel Pittem.

SAMUEL PITTEM is called in, and examined as follows:

YOU are a Tailor at Bradford?
Yes.

A Master Tailor?
Yes.

How many Journeymen do you keep?
That differs.

How many had you when you left Home?
Five.

Have you more at this Time of Year than in the Winter?
Yes.

How many have you in the Winter?
Sometimes One, sometimes Two; generally Two.

Your Half-brother is an Apprentice with you?
Yes.

Have you any other Apprentices?
Yes.

How long have you been settled in Bradford?
I have been settled in Bradford nearly Six Years as Journeyman; I have been Master not above Half the Time.

About Three Years you have been Master?
Not exactly Three Years.

Are you married?
Yes.

Have you a Family of your own?
I have One Child; I have had Five Children, but I have only One living.

Your Wife is alive?
Yes.

How came you to take your Half-brother Apprentice?
I sent for my Mother at the Whitsuntide before to see me; she had never been to see me; I sent her up some Money to pay her Coach Fare down; I had told her before that I was in Business, and doing very well. She saw that I had Apprentices, but never put a Question to me as to whether I would take

Samuel Pittem.

take John; I thought he never would have Strength to go to a Trade. I sent her back again, and in January 1836 I received a Letter from her, saying, that they were going to take John into the Workhouse, and that it was much against her Will that he should go from her, and that they wanted to have his Leg off; they had said so before; and I sent a Letter back to Mr. Taylor, the Church Minister, saying that I had my Quantity of Apprentices, but that I would take John, and would come up and take him immediately, and I came accordingly, and was up there at the Time I said I should be there.

Did you at any Time send your Mother Relief before?
No, never; I gave her Money to pay her Coach Fare, but I never sent her any Money before.

How came you not to send her any Money?
I had no Money to begin Business with; and it was probable I should do something if I got on, but it was only from Hand to Mouth, and I had nothing to spare.

What Sort of an Apprentice does this Boy make?
He makes an excellent Apprentice.

He will very soon be able to earn his own Livelihood?
He will not do to be kept close to his Trade; he is sickly. I keep him Six or Seven Hours at a Time to it, and then let him have a little Air.

He will be able to earn his Livelihood?
I have no Doubt of it.

How soon after he came to you did the Neighbour come to speak to him about his Treatment at Lichborough?
It sprang out of very foolish Circumstances. Some of my Customers and a Friend of mine came and asked him several Things.

What was his Name?
His Name was Squire Auty. I did not think it any Harm to let the Boy say what he knew, and he told my Friend, and he, I suppose, told his Friend Mr. Bull, and then the Reverend Mr. Bull came and fetched him.

You had a great deal to do in Bradford about the Poor Laws?
Yes; all the Town was entirely against it, and any one that could get Information how they were managed told it to others.

Squire Auty was against this Poor Law?
I cannot say that he was or not.

He was a Friend of Mr. Bull's?
I do not know that he was more a Friend of Mr. Bull's than of mine; I believe he was a Friend of Mr. Bull's.

He is a Painter?
Yes.

Were you present at any Conversations between the Boy and Mr. Bull?
No.

You were not present when the Boy told him what had been passing in the Poorhouse at Lichborough?
I will not say I was not there, but I do not recollect any Conversation.

Were you present when your Brother talked about his Fear of going into the Workhouse?
No.

Had he ever expressed himself very strongly to you upon this Subject?
Yes, in this Way, that he was so glad for me to take him, though he did not like leaving Home, that he was frightened, through the Tale that had gone about, that they would cut his Leg off.

That was his main Fear?
Yes.

Samuel Pittem.

Did he say any thing to you about cutting his Hair?
No; I do not know that he did.

Did he complain of the Confinement, or Food?
Yes; he told me different Tales as we came down the Road. I had not been up for some Time to see my Friends.

Did he tell you about a Girl of the Name of Jane Adams?
Yes; the Neighbours in the Village told me that when they came to see me. I was always very well liked among them, apparently, by their coming to see me when I came Home; they told me they were so glad I had come for John, for they did not know that any other Master would have taken him, and that if he had gone into the Workhouse he would have been as ill used as Jane Adams was.

Did they tell you any thing about her Treatment?
Yes; they said that she said she was flogged, and the Hair of her Head cut off, and she was put into a Place of Confinement. I cannot recollect whether they said in what Manner she was flogged, but I think they said it was with a Cat-o'-nine-tails; I will not say it for a Fact, but I fancy they told me so.

That she was stripped?
Yes.

Did you ever tell that Story in Bradford?
They asked me whether I had heard something of it, and I told them that the Neighbours had told me the same Tale.

Did you ever hear any thing of your Mother being afraid of their stopping the Relief on account of what you had said?
I heard them mention that my Mother had so much a Week, Two Loaves a Week, or something, and then I mentioned to the Reverend Mr. Bull that I did not wish my Brother to be brought in, lest they should stop her Relief altogether; that I did not wish it to be laid on her Shoulders, or mine neither.

That was a Fear on your Part?
Yes.

You had no Reason to fear they would stop it, from any thing you had heard?
No; but I knew the Situation in which she was placed, and that she had very little to keep her with, and that she had no other Friend to assist her, for that they are all very poor.

Were you present at this Meeting?
I was at One Meeting.

At the Meeting when your Brother was produced as a Cripple?
I was; I went up there just after he was there.

Were there a great Number of People there?
I cannot say exactly to the Number; there was the School-room full, probably a Room as large as this.

Was there a great Sensation at the Meeting when your Brother was produced?
Not so much when he was produced as at other Things which had been before.

Did this Story of flogging the Girl cause great Sensation in the Meeting?
I believe it did; and others besides spoke of different Things that had been done in different Parts of the Country, taking off from what this Boy said.

The Story of the flogging made a great Sensation?
Yes; and different Things of Persons who had died in the Workhouse. Different other Persons spoke as well as Mr. Bull.

Do you know any thing of the Circumstances of your Brother the Butcher; how near to your Mother does he live?
He is living within a Distance of Three or Four Miles.

Samuel Pittem.

Does not he carry on a good Trade?
I do not call it a Trade; I call it a mere nothing at all. The People are very poor, and I do not suppose there is One Person in the Village that eats Meat above Once or Twice a Week.

Does he only supply Meat to People in the Village?
He is the only Butcher.

Do you know what he kills in the Week?
He is below, if your Lordships should wish to ask him the Question. I should think he kills perhaps Two or Three Sheep in the Week.

No Beasts?
I do not suppose he kills a Beast more than Once a Year, at the Feast Time.

Does he keep a Horse and Cart?
No.

Do you know Mr. Smales?
I know very little about him.

What is he?
He is a Schoolmaster at Bradford.

Has he taken any great Part against the Poor Law at Bradford?
No, I do not think he has. It was to endeavour to get hold of the Facts that he was sent up, to see whether there was any thing in them.

Is he a Dissenter?
No, of the Church of England, and so am I. Mr. Taylor, the Church Minister of Lichborough, would not have allowed me to have this Boy unless I had been of the Church of England.

Did you receive a Premium from the Parish?
No, not from the Parish, but from the same Charity I had myself when I was a Boy;—15*l.*; 7*l.* 10*s.* at the Time of binding, and 7*l.* 10*s.* afterwards.

Is that in the Direction of the Clergyman?
The Clergyman and the Churchwardens.

Is it directed by the Will that the Master shall be a Member of the Church of England?
Yes; Lady Catherine was the Person who left it. There are a great many Apprentices all round the Neighbourhood placed out by it.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Mr. J. B. Smales.

Mr. JOHN BARTHOLOMEW SMALES is called in, and examined as follows:

YOU live at Bradford in Yorkshire?
I do.

You are a Schoolmaster there?
I am.

What School do you keep?
At present the New School, built by John Wood, Esquire.

It is not a School of your own setting up?
I have what the School makes; I have no Salary.

Mr. Wood built the School-room, and put you in as Schoolmaster?
Mr. Wood built the School-room. I had taught a Factory School for him; when this was erected I removed to it.

You have the Use of the School-room, and make what you can of the Scholars?
Yes.

Mr. J. B. Smales.

Have not you been sent lately by the Reverend Mr. Bull to Towcester or that Neighbourhood to make some Inquiries respecting the Management of the Poor?

I was sent there in April last.

Did he give you Instructions for that Purpose in Writing, or by Word of Mouth?

Verbal Instructions; perhaps he did make a few Memoranda for me.

You have not those Memoranda by you?

No; I returned them to him, if I had any.

What were you to inquire into?

I was particularly to inquire into the Report circulated respecting Jane Adams, a young Girl, who had been in Towcester Workhouse.

That was the particular Thing?

Yes.

Were you directed to inquire respecting the Circumstances of the Widow Brown?

I was.

And into all the Circumstances respecting the Cripple being to be taken into the Workhouse, and so forth?

I was.

First, with regard to Jane Adams; how did you conduct your Inquiries respecting her?

I found Jane Adams at a Village called Pattishall, and I inquired whether she was ever in Towcester Union Workhouse; she answered in the Affirmative. I inquired how she was behaved to; she described the Behaviour to her as generally good, with the Exception of being struck by the Matron of the Workhouse on several Occasions, and her Fault, as she stated to me, was, that her Mistress was not pleased with the Work she had performed.

In what Way did she say she had been struck?

She said she had been beaten by the Hand of the Matron.

With the open Hand, or the closed Hand?

She did not say that the Blows were violent, nor did I ask that particular Question; she said she had been often beaten.

Did you ask her whether she had ever been stripped and flogged?

I did; and she said no.

What Work was it she was doing that the Matron said she had done ill?

The Work the Matron complained of was the washing or scrubbing the Floors, and the washing of the Linen; those were the Employments I understood she was engaged in.

Was she in a clean and decent State when you saw her?

She was a fair Specimen of the young Persons in the Neighbourhood.

She did not tell you she had been found fault with for being dirty and filthy in the Workhouse?

She did not.

What aged Girl is she?

She was Seventeen at the Time I visited her; that was the 16th of April.

Full-grown?

I should say very nearly so.

She did not make any Complaint, except of her having been struck by the Matron?

She did not. I beg Pardon; she did complain of having been Twice put in Confinement in the Refractory Cell.

Did she explain to you what Sort of a Place that was?

I saw the Place, at least I saw the Writing over the Door from the Window of the Workhouse.

Mr. J. B. Smales.

What Sort of a Room was it?
There is a Partition Wall which separates the Men's Yard and the Women's; next to the Party Wall there is a Dead House.

That is, a Place for the Bodies of the Persons who die in the Workhouse to be laid out?
To be lodged till buried. There is One on either side the Wall; one the Men's, the other the Women's. Next to the Dead House is the Refractory Cell, in which she was confined.

There is a Wall intervening between them?
Yes.

So that when you saw the Door of the one you did not see the Door of the other?
I should describe them as Stalls in a Stable, with perhaps a Brick in Thickness Division Wall between them. There are Two separate Entrances.

Does the Wall go up to the Top?
It does not in the inside.

They were both in that Part which is called the Women's Yard?
Yes; contiguous the one to the other.

There is a Dead House in the Men's Yard also?
Yes.

What Sort of a Place is it?
I did not see the Place.

Did you see any Light in it?
I saw no Window; she described it as being quite dark.

Did she state how long she had remained in that dark Cell?
I understood her to say that on one Occasion she stayed in the greater Part of the Day.

Never beyond a few Hours? Never during the Night?
I did not understand that she had.

Was there any thing else of which she complained, with respect to the Food, or any thing of that Kind?
She made no Complaint with respect to the Food. She said her Hair was cut against her Will when she entered the House.

Did you see her Head?
I saw her Head of Hair without any Cap.

How was it cut?
I did not see it when it was cut, but when I saw her she had her Hair in the Manner that young Persons of her Age generally have.

How long was that after she left the Workhouse?
I understood her to say she was sent into Towcester Union Workhouse about Christmas 1836, and that she came out at Michaelmas 1837.

It was in the Easter of this Year you saw her?
Yes; on the 16th of April.

She had a Head of Hair like other People then?
Yes; there was the intervening Time from Christmas 1836 to April 1838.

Did she at all make you understand the Way in which her Hair had been cut?
She described her Hair as having been cut quite short.

Did you ask her whether it was cut as her own Hair then was, or shorter than that?
To make me understand how the Hair was cut she added, "My Hair was cut like a Boy's."

That is to say, that the long Hair behind was cut off?
That is what I understood.

Mr. J. B. Smales.

Did she complain of being ill lodged at all in the House?
She could not do that, inasmuch as I saw the Beds myself.

You went to the Workhouse?
I did.

Did you see the Matron?
Yes; I just passed her in going through the Room in Conversation with the Master; he showed me the House.

What Sort of a Place did you find it?
I found the Place similar to that at Northampton, which House I had visited previously.

Was it clean and in good Order, and comfortable?
I saw nothing dirty; I should say it was clean and in good Order.

Did you happen to see them at their Meals?
I did not; it was just after Dinner when I got there.

You had Conversation with the Master, but none with the Mistress?
I had.

Did you ask about Jane Adams having been struck by the Mistress?
No.

You did not inquire into the Circumstances, supposing her to have been struck?
I did not.

How came you not to do that?
I did not deem it in my Province to do that.

Possibly you did not think they would give you an Answer?
I thought it best not to make any Inquiries into it.

Why best?
Inasmuch as I had no Instruction to that Effect.

All you were instructed to inquire after was Jane Adams?
Yes, as a Person likely to give me the most correct Information.

You were not desired to obtain a correct Explanation of the Matter of the Person who was accused of striking her?
I was not.

Did you make Inquiry respecting the Circumstances of the Widow Brown?
I did.

What did you find with respect to her Case?
I found what I delivered in Writing to the Rev. Mr. Bull.

Which probably he has stated to the Committee?
I must presume he has.

Did you ever hear that she had been afraid of having the Loaf of Bread stopped?
I did; that she was afraid that her Support would be taken from her.

For what Reason?
The Reason, I understood, she had for that Alarm was, that she would be in distressed Circumstances if that was the Fact.

Did she tell you that anybody had threatened to take off this Loaf of Bread?
I do not recollect that.

Did she ever talk of her Son's having been produced at a Meeting at Bradford?
She did not.

Were you at that Meeting?
I was.

Was it a very large Meeting?
It was not a large Meeting, inasmuch as it was held in the School-room.

How

Mr. J. B. Smales.

How many People would that School-room hold?
I went in very late, having been out of the Town that Day; it was very near the Conclusion of the Meeting.

Did you see the Cripple produced?
I knew nothing of that Matter.

Did you not hear Mr. Bull's Speech?
No.

You do not know any thing of the Effect Mr. Bull's Speech had made?
No.

There was a great Uneasiness at Bradford at the Time on the Subject of the Poor Law?
There was.

And is still?
I would adopt that Expression, that there is still.

There had been for a considerable Time previously to that?
There had been.

Did you direct your Inquiries at Towcester to any thing but those Two Circumstances; namely, with respect to Adams, and with respect to the Woman's Bread being stopped? Did you make any Inquiries respecting any Terror the Boy was under at going into the Workhouse?
The Boy was under great Alarm at being told he was to go into the Workhouse.

By whom were you told that?
By his Mother.

What was his Alarm occasioned by?
By the Report in Circulation.

Did she tell you that he was particularly alarmed at the Notion of having his Leg cut off?
She did not; that was stated by Mr. Bull at Bradford; I understood him to say that the Cause of her Alarm was more the Detention in the Workhouse than as to any particular Thing with reference to his Leg.

Was there any other Circumstance with regard to this Boy Brown or the Mother which you discovered when you made those Inquiries?
If the particular Thing is named, perhaps I could call it to mind.

Was any thing mentioned about his not being able to see his Mother as the Reason for his Fear of going into the Workhouse?
I understood that he was told that if he went into the Workhouse, and his own Mother called upon him, she would not be allowed to see him.

Who told you that?
I was told that in the Village.

Did you inquire about that of the Master when you had a Conversation with him?
I did not.

You do not know how far it was well grounded or not?
I only know it was the Report in the Village.

Did you hear any thing about her being allowed to speak only through a Hole in the Wall, if the Mother came to see him in the Workhouse?
I did not hear that; it was not stated to me; I believe it was stated to Mr. Bull.

Do you know at all by whom it was stated to Mr. Bull?
No, I do not.

Why do you believe it was stated to Mr. Bull?
Inasmuch as I heard of it afterwards.

Mr. J. B. Smales.

You know this Boy's Brother, Pittem?
Yes.

He is in a pretty good Business now, is not he?
I understand that to be the Case.

And a respectable Man?
I know nothing to the contrary.

Have you ever seen the Boy since he was in his Service?
I had never seen the Boy before about the Time that I made my Visit into Northamptonshire.

You have never heard that he complained of his present Situation?
Never.

Did you see any Paupers when you were in the Workhouse at Towcester?
Yes.

Were they all with cropped Polls?
I do not recollect observing that they all were, but I understood the cutting the Hair was one of the Conditions.

Were they all cropped close to their Heads?
I did not see that all were cut close to the Head.

If they had been all cut close to the Head should not you have seen it?
I inquired of the Master if the cutting the Hair was done on the Entrance; he said, "Yes." I said, "In all Cases?" he answered, "When not clean."

Did you ask him how close it was cut?
I did not.

Did you see any one that was cut close?
I saw the Hair cut in such a Manner as reminded me of a regular House of Correction.

Where?
At Wakefield; I saw it in the Towcester Union and in the Northampton Union too.

Did he state that it was done only when they were not clean?
I understood so.

When their Hair was filthy it was cut in this Way?
Yes; I understood so.

Did you see any Persons with long Hair in the Workhouse?
I saw aged Persons, but I could not judge of their Hair, as they had their Caps on.

What induced you to go to the Northampton Workhouse?
Merely to inquire and see the House.

Were the printed Rules hung up?
Yes; I saw the Dietary Table in the Board Room in both Houses.

Did you see the Rules?
I saw some Rules of the Commissioners, some Sections or Instructions; I cannot be particular what they were.

Were those hung up in any of the Rooms?
I saw them at Northampton; I did not see any in Towcester.

You do not know that they were not there?
I do not; I did not see them.

Have you been at Nottingham Workhouse?
No.

You did not go to inquire about Mrs. Howes?
No.

Did most of the People appear to have their Hair cut?
The best Answer I can give to that is, that I was strongly reminded of the House of Correction at Wakefield.

Mr. J. B. Smales.

By the Appearance of most of the People?
Yes.

Did you tell Mr. Bull the Manner in which this Girl had been corrected?
Yes.

Have you ever been at the Union Workhouse at Daventry?
I have.

Did you make any Observation there as to the Way in which the Hair of the Inmates was cut?
Similar to that I have said; they corresponded with the Appearance of the Male Felons at Wakefield House of Correction.

They were cropped close?
Yes.

You have been in the Workhouse at Northampton?
Yes.

Did you find there separate Lodging Rooms for married Couples?
I did.

How many?
I believe Three or Four, which had all been originally, I apprehend, in One Room, but had been divided for the Accommodation of the married Couples; but they had Partitions, which did not go to the Ceiling, but went Part of the Way.

Do you happen to know whether the Story about Jane Adams was generally believed in the Neighbourhood of Lichborough?
I should think so; it was widely circulated, and generally believed.

Would it not be very easy to make the Partitions such as that married Couples might sleep with Decency in the same Room?
It would; that was the Case at Northampton.

Are there any other Places where you have seen the same Thing?
It was not in the Union at Towcester nor at Daventry.

If the married Couples in those Workhouses slept together they must sleep, several Men and several Women in the same Room?
All arranged Side by Side.

You did not take the Trouble to inquire of any of the Paupers how they were pleased?
At Northampton the Male Inmates complained of the Dietary Table as being deficient in Quantity and also in Quality; the Porter was present at the Time, who showed me the House.

That was in the hearing of the Porter who showed you the House?
Yes; every thing which occurred was in the Presence of the Person who showed me the House.

Did you see the Dietary?
I saw the Dietary Table.

Do you know whether the Inmates of any of those Workhouses are allowed to see in private those who call upon them?
I have understood that is not the Case, that they must see their Friends in the Presence of the Master or the Matron.

Who told you that?
I was told that by the Workhouse Master at Daventry.

Did he tell you the Reason for that?
This was his Instance or Illustration:—"Suppose your Mother had been a profligate Character——" That was the Illustration employed by the Master of the Workhouse of the Union. It was in answer to my remarking that I did not like the Inmates not being allowed to see their Friends alone. He said, "Suppose your Mother to be an immoral Character, and her Son visited her,

Mr. J. B. Smales.

and you secreted under your Clothes a Bottle of Spirits for your Mother, do you think it proper that you should come into the House and leave that Bottle of Spirits?" "Exceedingly improper," said I; "for no Person is more desirous in seeing Sobriety in a Population than I am; but," I said, "suppose my Mother had been throughout her whole Life a moral Character, and that she had been overtaken in the Time of old Age by Poverty, Sickness, or any unforeseen Calamity to which human Nature is subject, and I, her Son, requested to see her, I should think it exceedingly hard if I could not see my Mother alone." That was his Illustration, and that my Reply.

That was the End of the Conversation?
On that Subject.

Is it the Practice for the Board of Guardians when they have those moral Characters to send them into the Workhouse, and to allow no Out-door Relief?
I understood no Out-door Relief was allowed to the able-bodied at Northampton.

Male or Female?
Yes.

The Question refers to the aged and infirm?
I understand that for the aged and infirm at Northampton Out-door Relief was given in Bread.

In Towcester?
I did not hear that.

You believe that the Guardians are not in the habit of sending the aged and infirm good Characters into the Workhouse?
That I cannot say. I should say that the Test of Poverty is the Workhouse, generally.

Do you undertake to say they did not relieve the aged and infirm out of the Workhouse in Money as well as in Kind?
I understood they did not give any Money.

Are you positive as to the Fact that that was so stated to you?
I am.

You are positive it was stated to you, by whom?
I am aware that it was stated to me by the Porter at the Workhouse at Northampton.

That they gave no Relief out of Doors except in Kind to the aged and infirm?
Yes.

Who is to judge whether they are moral Characters?
In answer to that Question I should say that my Life is the Criterion by which I should wish to be judged.

Do the Guardians send whom they will to the Workhouse, and relieve whom they please out of the Workhouse?
I did not understand that.

Do they send all to the Workhouse, or allow some to have Relief out and some in?
Yes; Relief is given out of the Workhouse in Bread.

If the Guardians consider them not good Characters they do not give the Bread out of the Workhouse, but send them into the Workhouse?
I do not know that.

Were the People who complained to you of insufficient Diet able-bodied Men, or infirm?
There were both infirm and able-bodied who complained.

The infirm complained as well as the able-bodied?
Yes.

Do you say that you understood from the Porter that they never relieved the able-bodied, whether Male or Female, out of the House?
Only in Kind, in Bread.

That

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Mr. B. Smales.

That they did not relieve able-bodied Males or Females?
The Females, I understood, who had been of respectable Character were relieved with Bread; and that I am quite sure is the Case. It was stated to me that they used to relieve them at the Workhouse, but that they relieve them now at some Room in the Town of Northampton.

If the Guardians knew they were of respectable Character they relieved them out of the Workhouse in Kind; but if they took it into their Heads that they were not respectable Characters they shut them up in the Workhouse? They were the Judges?
I presume they are the Judges.

Do you apprehend that the Guardians never knew any thing about the Characters of those who applied to them for Relief?
It is their Business to inform themselves.

They are likely to get correct Information, probably?
Yes, I should think so.

Therefore, if they took it into their Heads that a Pauper was not a Man of respectable Character, they would be very likely to have correct Information that he was not a respectable Character?
They might.

Is there any other Point on which you have Information to give?
Merely that the Separation is required in all the Workhouses that I have visited, except Northampton.

You stated that the Master of the Workhouse told you in answer to your Inquiries that they cropped them if they were not clean?
That was the Qualification.

Did you see very many cropped in that Workhouse?
I have said that I could not answer as to the Women, inasmuch as their Caps covered their Hair, whether they were short; but that, with respect to the Men, I was strongly reminded of the Male Felons in the Wakefield House of Correction.

Would not the Presumption be, that they had come in in a filthy State?
I cannot answer that; I did not conceive that.

They were all in that State?
Pretty generally.

How are they cut in the Wakefield House of Correction?
Short.

You mean cropped?
Cut quite close; I saw the Men who were cut close.

Do not poor Persons consider it a great Degradation to have their Hair cropped in the Manner in which Convicts are?
No Doubt they do.

What is the particular Manner in which Convicts are cropped?
Your Lordships know much better than I do; but I should say, in answer to that Question, they are cut quite close.

The Question is, whether the Mode of cropping similar to that adopted at the House of Correction is considered a Degradation by the Poor?
In answer to that Question I say decidedly, yes.

In addition to a Feeling of Degradation, is it not also a Disparagement to a Woman if her Hair is cut short?
I should consider it so. A Conversation I had with a Female in the County of Northampton was one of Indignation at the Idea of having her Hair cut off.

That was a Female out of the Workhouse?
Yes.

Mr. J. B. Smales.

You say you have seen the cropping of the Prisoners in the Wakefield House of Correction; did you ever see any of those at Towcester or Northampton cropped in a similar Way?
I did not state that I had seen the Thing done, but that I had seen them with their Hair short.

You saw this Girl, Jane Adams, about Six Months after she came out of the Workhouse?
She came out at Michaelmas 1837, and I saw her the 16th of April 1838.

If her Hair had been cut so closely as to resemble that of Felons, could it have grown in Six Months so as to be like that of the other Girls of her Years?
Yes; she went into the House at Christmas 1836, and the Question arises, whether she had her Hair cut any more.

That was the only Case?
I cannot tell that; that is the Question.

They cut it close only when they first come in?
I cannot answer as to that.

How long was her Hair; was it the usual Length of a young Woman's when you saw her?
Yes; it was that which is usual to a young Person of that Age; in fact, I saw her Yesterday.

The closer it is shaved the faster it will grow?
I did not understand it to be shaved.

Is there any thing else you have to state?
I have not, inasmuch as I have never taken any Part or produced any Persons who have opposed this Law.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Mr. J. Johnston.

Mr. JAMES JOHNSTON is called in, and examined as follows:

YOU are Master of the Towcester Workhouse?
Yes.

How long have you been in that Situation?
I entered the House in October 1836.

Nobody preceded you in the Situation?
No.

You are married, and your Wife is the Matron?
Yes.

Do you recollect a Pauper of the Name of Jane Adams coming to your House?
No; there was never a Pauper of that Name in the House.

You are sure of that?
Yes; the Girl alluded to was admitted to the House by the Name of Jane Moore.

How came she to be admitted by that Name?
She is a Natural Child, and took her Name from her Mother; the Mother's Name was Moore, and the Father's Adams.

You are sure that Jane Moore who was in the Workhouse was the same Person of whom so much has been said?
Yes; I believe it is the same.

At what Time did she come into the Workhouse?
On the 26th of December 1836.

What aged Girl was she?
Going Fifteen, I think, when she entered the House.

Mr. J. Johnston.

Was her Mother alive?
Yes.

Had she been living with her Mother?
She had.

Up to the Time of her coming into the Workhouse?
No; before she came in she had been with one of the Guardians at Lichborough.

In Service?
Yes; he took her. The Man that her Mother was married to would not allow her to be there, because she was a very bad Girl; he put her out.

What do you mean by her being a very bad Girl?
She was given to loose Habits; she was a Thief, and a great Liar.

Do you mean that she was a bad Character?
Her Mother stated to my Wife that she was a bad Girl; that she would not keep from romping with the Boys in the Place she was in. Her Mother came to see her afterwards in the Workhouse.

The Overseer of Lichborough took her into his Service?
He took her till such Time the House was ready.

Did he take her into his House?
Yes, I believe so.

What is his Name?
Mr. Wyse; he was the late Guardian.

She lived with him?
Yes, before she was given over to me; he stated to me that she was a great Liar. When I took her into the House I treated her according to her Conduct.

Has not Mr. Wyse now in his Service a Man of the Name of Pittem?
I do not know.

When she came into the Workhouse in what State was her Head of Hair?
She was herself in a very distressing State, her Appearance; and her Hair was very filthy, into the Bargain, and full of Vermin. She was a very dirty Girl in her Habits.

Did you cut her Hair?
Her Hair was thinned, as we do with all the Paupers, in a proper Manner, and cleansed.

There is an universal Rule that you should cut and thin their Hair?
Yes; but in the thinning we allow the Females to have their Hair cut as they like, and the Men too.

You have a regular Barber?
We have a regular Barber, who attends Twice a Week from the Town to shave the old Men, and cut the Boys and Girls Hair as they require; the Girls are cut similar to those of their own Station in the Town, and the Men's are fit for any Men in Business.

When you talk of thinning this Girl's Hair, was there only the Point taken off, or was it shortened in point of Length?
It was shortened at the Point.

Was it cut quite close?
It was not.

In what Way are the Women's Hair cut?
They have their Hair cut as they please.

Have you ever happened to be in a House of Correction?
No, I never was.

Has every one who comes into the House his Hair cut as a matter of course?
No; only those whose Hair is long.

Mr. J. Johnston.

If an able-bodied Pauper comes into the House you do not as a matter of course cut his Hair off?
No; only if he is dirty we have him cleansed.

If a Boy comes into the House do you regularly cut his Hair?
If his Head is dirty, not otherwise.

There is no uniform Mode of cutting the Hair?
No.

There is nothing of the Kind in your Rules or Regulations?
No.

You do not meddle with their Heads unless they are dirty or filthy?
No.

Is there any Regulation upon the Subject?
Yes, there is.

Have you got the Regulation with you?
In our Regulations we are directed to have them cleaned and combed.

Is there any Regulation about cutting Hair?
No, not specifically.

By whose Instruction do you cut Hair at all?
Only when I find them dirty.

You have no Plan of cutting the Hair, for the Purpose of putting them into an uniform Appearance?
Not at all.

Nor any thing by way of Degradation, or preventing their Escape from the House?
No; in no Way disfiguring them.

Is it cut so short as a Soldier's Hair?
No, not so short.

When Jane Adams came into the House what was she set to do?
She was placed in the Kitchen, and used to sleep in a small Room second but one from our own, and used to wait upon my Wife; my Wife took to her, being a Girl, and thinking to make her handy.

She was employed in the Kitchen?
Yes.

Was she a sharp clever Girl?
She wanted a great deal of looking after; she was very dilatory, unless she was looked after.

Was she intelligent?
No; I cannot say that she was.

Did any of the Paupers complain of having their Hair cut?
I never heard any.

The Boys never complained?
No, never.

Did the Females ever complain?
Never. I never heard any one complain.

Not this particular one, Jane Adams?
No; I never heard that she did.

How did she do her Work when she was employed?
She was a very idle Girl at Times; it took a great Part of my Wife's Time to look after her. I was in the habit of calling her up; she had to go and light the Fire, and get the Kitchen ready; and sometimes when I have gone down I have found nothing done, the Fire not lit, and all the Cinders and Dirt about the Kitchen.

Are you aware of her having been punished for her Conduct in the House? *Mr. J. Johnston.*
Never.

Was she ever put into the Black Hole?
Yes; she has been in the Place for the refractory.

What Sort of a Place is it?
It is about Ten Feet by Six.

Dark?
There is a temporary Piece of Wood over the Doorway; there is a Part of the Board broken, and there is Light admitted.

For what Sort of Fault was this Girl put into this Place?
It was very indelicate certainly what she did. One Morning she went to the Ash Pit in the Kitchen, and made use of the Ash Pit for her Occasions, instead of going to the Water Closet; and she had been in the habit of going down. We have a Furnace; where we keep the Coal to heat the Furnace she had been in the habit of going down amongst the Coal, where other Women going down have to put their Hands amongst the Coals.

Had she done this more than once before you put her into that Place?
No, not then.

How long was she detained in that Place?
An Hour or Two; not more than an Hour and a Half.

Was she ever put in again?
Yes; she did that same Thing again.

Was she in longer that Time?
No, not so long the second Time.

Was she ever corporally punished?
Never; my Wife, may be, had given her a Slap of the Hand.

Have you ever seen your Wife do that?
Yes, I have.

Did you take any notice of it to your Wife, and say, "You should not do that"?
I thought that I would make an Example of her, and put her into the Refractory Cell for a Time.

Did you find fault with your Wife for having struck her with her Hand?
I cannot say that I did.

Do you think it quite proper that the Matrons should strike the Paupers?
I do not know that she had hurt the Girl by striking her. I am sure that my Wife was much attached to her; the Girl was a very good-tempered Girl, and that made us overlook a great Number of her Faults.

Have you seen your Wife do this more than once, strike her with her Hand?
Never but once.

Was it with the open Hand?
Yes.

Have you proper Places for your Paupers?
Yes. The second Time she committed this Offence she made use of the Pot, and then threw its Contents out into the Women's Yard, close to the Parlour Door.

Did the rest of the Female Paupers ever express to you any Complaint or Disgust at those filthy Habits?
Yes, they did.

You say this happened only once; you never saw it but once, your Wife striking her with the open Hand?
Yes.

Was it only a Slap with the open Hand?
Yes.

Mr. J. Johnston.

Not a violent Beating of any Kind?
No.

Not a Flogging with a Cat-o'-nine-tails?
Such a Thing was never in the House at all.

Was it about her Face?
It touched her about the Back of her Head.

What used to be called a Box of the Ear?
Yes.

Was it such a Blow as would make a Mark upon her?
No.

Was it such a Blow as you would have given to your own Child?
Yes, I cannot say but it was.

That Sort of Correction which your Wife might have given to her own Child?
Yes.

Did the Girl at the Time it was done complain, and say that she ought not to be struck, or any thing of that Sort?
I never heard her complain.

Did she ever say that she should complain to the Guardians, or any thing of the Sort?
No, she never did.

Have you any Rules or Regulations stuck up in your Workhouse, saying, that if the Paupers wished to complain to the Guardians they are at liberty to do so?
Not in those Words; but I have the Rules and Regulations of the Commissioners.

And were those hung up in every Ward?
No.

Are not you directed by the Act to have that done?
I have the Rules of the Commissioners respecting the Orders, and every thing of that Sort.

And that is one of the Rules?
Yes.

You hang up whatever you are ordered by the Guardians?
Yes, from the Poor Law Commissioners.

Then any of the People that can read those Rules must be fully aware of the Remedy that they have?
Yes.

Can this Girl read?
I used to have her into the School, and give her repeated Lessons; but she is very dull; she would not pay Attention to any thing in the Way of learning.

How long did she remain in the Workhouse?
About Nine Months.

Did she go out of her own accord?
No; the Guardian that has taken her to his own Place told me that he had got her a Service.

What is the Guardian's Name?
Mr. Bird.

Was she anxious to get out of the House?
Not at all; she was very sorry she was leaving.

To whom did she express her Sorrow?
To the Paupers and to my Wife.

Mr. J. Johnston.

Did she complain of her Treatment in the Workhouse, or did she say that she was very comfortable and well treated?
She said that she was very well treated, and that she was very sorry to go.

What made her sorry to go?
I cannot say; but she seemed to be perfectly satisfied with us.

Was she going to be Maid of all Work?
I think so.

Did you think you effected any Improvement in her while she was in the Workhouse?
Yes; she seemed to be a better Girl.

Then it was a Pity she did not remain longer?
We were very sorry that she left, and we should have been glad to have kept her, as we were very short of Women.

Was there any Time at which Mrs. Johnston struck her with a small Cane?
Not to my Knowledge.

Did not Mr. Shepherd make Inquiry of you respecting this Matter?
Yes, he did.

Did not you state to Mr. Shepherd that Mrs. Johnston may have hit her a Stripe or Two with a Cane?
I did.

What is Mr. Shepherd?
The Clerk of the Union.

Was that another Occasion, or was it the same?
That must have been the Second Offence that she committed.

Will you explain what Sort of a Cane it was?
She made use of the Po. The Window of the Room that she slept in was near to the Porch Door, and she threw it out of the Porch Door. There was a Closet next the Passage, where she might have gone; we have Five Closets in the House, and she might have gone and made use of that.

What Sort of a Cane was it that Mrs. Johnston hit her with?
A Cane very little thicker than one of the Quills upon the Table.

Did you see that?
Yes, I did.

What Sort of a Blow was it with this Cane; was it a rather smart Blow that might have marked the Skin?
I believe it was Two or Three Switches across her Shoulder.

Above her Clothes?
Yes.

When it was done did you make any Remark upon the Subject to Mrs. Johnston, that she ought not to do so?
I believe I did say it was Nonsense doing any thing of the Sort, because it would be better to put her into the Refractory Ward, to see whether we could make a better Girl of her.

Did you think it proper that she should use the Cane to strike a Pauper with in that Way?
I do not think that she hurt the Girl at all.

Did you conceive that she had any Authority to strike her at all?
No; I believe she had no Authority to strike her.

Then why did not you make a Remark to her, "That is not proper; you have no Business to strike her," and prevent her doing it a Second Time?
I might have been a little agitated at the Time that she did it, and over-excited.

You mentioned before that she had thrown this Filth out of the Window, but you did not then state that the Mistress of the Workhouse immediately

Mr. J. Johnston.

struck her with the Cane; why did not you mention, when you stated that she had been guilty of this filthy Act, what Punishment the Mistress of the Workhouse inflicted upon her?
I believe I did not mention it.

Can you account for your not having mentioned it before? Has not this Practice of striking with the Cane been rather common; are there not many other Cases in which the Cane has been used?
Not to my Knowledge.

You take upon yourself positively to swear that you do not know any other Instance in which either you or the Matron of the Workhouse has used the Cane?
No, I believe not.

But this is so extraordinary a Thing that you must know it. Did you ever see it, or ever hear of it?
No, I never did.

You state that positively?
Yes.

Have you ever struck a Pauper yourself?
I have sometimes the Boys in School.

With your open Hand?
Yes.

Never with a Cane?
No.

You must have been aware that it was not a proper Thing for Mrs. Johnston to strike this Girl with a Cane?
No, it was not.

Then why did not you stop her after she struck the first Time?
She must have struck her so quick that I suppose I had not Time to stop her.

After she had struck her all these Blows these Two or Three Times, did you then make any Remark to Mrs. Johnston that it was very improper?
Yes, I did; that she should not have taken the Cane.

Will you undertake to swear that that Cane has not been used several Times?
Yes.

Positively?
Yes.

Did the Girl cry, and did she complain of being very much hurt by those Blows?
No, she did not. She seemed to be a very hardened Girl. The Girl seemed to think nothing of it.

Has there ever been any Inquiry made by your Visiting Committee upon the Subject of the beating of this Girl?
No, never.

Has there been none since Mr. Shepherd examined you?
No.

Do you know whether he reported the Examination to the Board of Guardians?
Yes, I believe he did.

And they did not make any further Inquiry?
Not to my Knowledge.

Have they conveyed to you any Disapprobation of Mrs. Johnston's Conduct upon that Occasion?
No, they have not.

How came Mr. Shepherd to hear of it?
Mr. Earle wrote to the Vice-Chairman, and Inquiry was made.

Mr. J. Johnston.

To inquire into the Matter?
Yes.

Have you had Occasion frequently to put Persons into the Refractory Cell?
Very seldom.

What is the greatest Length of Time that you ever confined a Person in the Refractory Cell?
I have never had them in above One Hour or an Hour and a Half at a Time.

Have you the Punishment Book?
No.

Do not you keep a Punishment Book, in which you record all the Punishments?
I do; but it has only been sent down about Six Weeks or Two Months.

Have you got it here?
No. I have no Cases in it, because we seldom have any thing improper occur in the House.

Have you had no Punishments during those Six Weeks?
No.

What have they to sit upon or to lie down upon in the Refractory Ward?
There is a Bedstead.

No Fire-place?
No.

Are they put into that Place in Winter?
I have never had Occasion to put any in in the Winter.

But if you had Occasion there is no Place to put them in, in which there is any Fire?
No.

They would be put into this Place?
Yes.

Is it not damp?
No; it is perfectly dry; it is very warm and dry.

What is there to give it Air, except this little Window over the Door?
There is no other Place to give it Air.

You seldom put in more than One at a Time?
Never.

If there was a Fire there, might it not lead to Mischief?
No Doubt it would; we do not know what might occur if they had a Fire.

After this beating you have spoken of, did the Girl behave herself better than before; was she cleaner?
Yes; I found that she conducted herself much better till she left the House.

When she left the House did not the Guardians order her some Clothes?
She was taken up before the Board, and I interceded with the Board, saying that she had nothing when she came in; and they gave her a Change of Clothes to go to Service.

Then she went away, and some Boy accompanied her?
I sent a little Boy belonging to the Parish with her to the Guardian of the Parish, and he took charge of her.

What Account did the Boy give of her?
The little Boy stated that she cried nearly all the Way going across the Fields to the Guardian's.

On what Account did she cry?
In consequence of leaving the House.

Mr. J. Johnston.

Was it in consequence of leaving the House, or in consequence of the Kindness she had received from you and your Wife, which made her unwilling to leave you?

The Kindness that she received from us, and leaving the House, because she would rather have stopped than have left us.

Your Kindness was associated in her Mind with the Recollection of having been in the Workhouse?

And being treated in the Manner in which we treated her, as she expressed herself to an old Woman that is now a Pauper in the House, that is ill upon her Bed, that we were much kinder to her than ever her Mother was, and that she should be very happy if she could ever come and see us; that she had a very good Master and Mistress, and she was very sorry to leave them.

Have you made Reports of your Punishments to the Guardians?

No, I have not.

Does not the Law require that whenever you punish a Person you shall report it to the Guardians?

I name it to the Visiting Committee when any thing occurs; but I never had a Book till within Six Weeks to enter any thing of the Sort in.

Do not you give a weekly Account to the Guardians of how the Inmates have conducted themselves?

I do not.

Were you Master of any other Workhouse before you came to this Workhouse?

No, I was not. I have a Book which will show the Manner in which the House is conducted. Here is the Chaplain's Book (*producing the same*).

That is the Book in which all Strangers put down their Names?

Yes.

Do you remember Mr. Smales visiting the House?

Yes, I remember it perfectly well; his Name is here. (*The Witness points it out in the Book.*)

Whose Writing is that?

That is his own Handwriting.

"J. B. Smales, from Yorkshire: clean and in order." What is this Erasure?

That is a Lady that had been there; she made a Mistake.

Have you any Complaints from the Paupers of the Diet?

Never. There is a Remark that an old Pauper made the other Day in that Book:—There was another old Man sitting amongst them, who got up at the same Time, and said that they had a good Master and Mistress, and plenty to eat, and a good Bed to go to, and that they could not wish for better. The Paupers, when Mr. Smales went round, seemed to give a very good Character, for the old Woman that I mentioned just now stated that she had a very good Master and Mistress, and that she hoped never to leave the House while she was alive.

Did Mr. Smales ask you about this striking?

No; he never asked me any thing respecting that.

He did not ask you how far it was true?

He did not ask me any thing upon the Subject. I knew nothing of the Man at the Time he came, except that I thought he was come round to look for something that was not proper, because he took a Piece of Bread and Cheese away, wrapped up carefully in a Piece of Paper. I showed him every thing that I thought necessary, and explained every thing in the House. After he had finished he said, "You have had a great deal of Trouble," and wished me to take some Money. I said, "It is quite contrary to my Orders and Regulations," and I would not. He shook Hands with me, and left the House.

Had you heard before of what occurred at Bradford, and of your having been accused of several Things there?

No; it was not, I think, till after he had been there.

Mr. J. Johnston.

You said that that Girl was about Nine Months in the Workhouse; were those Indecencies that she committed committed during the first Months of her being there?

No, they were not; the last she committed was in the warm Weather.

How long had she been in the Workhouse when she committed this Second Offence?

I should think Five or Six Months.

Are you the Schoolmaster?

Having but few in the House I superintend the School myself.

Who teaches the Girls?

I teach the Girls, and my Wife occasionally.

How many Persons have you in the Workhouse?

There are Fifty now.

Able-bodied?

No; there is only One able-bodied Man and One Woman out of the Number.

What is the greatest Proportion that you ever had of able-bodied Persons?

I never had above Three able-bodied Women in the House at one Time.

How long do they remain?

Sometimes Three or Four Months; till they get a Situation to go to.

Have you any Work for them?

Yes; the able-bodied have the Preparation of the Meals for the aged People.

Is that the only Work you have for them?

We have nothing else at present, except washing, mending the Clothes, and so on.

What have you for able-bodied Men?

We have nothing at present.

Had you nothing then?

Unless it is to employ them in the Garden.

What Extent of Ground have you?

We have not above an Acre.

Have you a Hand-mill?

No, we have not; but the Board are going to have one.

What is the Population?

About 11,000.

Is that the only Workhouse?

Yes.

How many is it calculated to hold?

210.

What is the largest Number that you have ever had?

Seventy during the Winter.

Was no Out-door Relief given to able-bodied Labourers in your Neighbourhood during last Winter?

The Way they did with the able-bodied Labourers last Winter was to send them to the Workhouse to be employed by me. I used to put them in the Garden to work at trenching.

What is the Size of the Garden?

Better than an Acre.

How much did they trench of it?

They trenched it all over; but the Winter being severe they could not work for a long Time, but I kept them there during the Day, and they returned to their Parishes at Night.

Mr. J. Johnston.

How did you pay them?
According to their Families.

Not according to the Labour they did?
No.

Was the Assistant Commissioner aware of this?
Yes, he was.

Who is the Assistant Commissioner?
Mr. Earle.

How many able-bodied Labourers had you, during the Winter, to employ in the Garden?
Sometimes Two or Three.

Not more?
No, never; they generally used to get Work when they had been there a few Days.

Would it not be useful to you to have more Land to employ more Persons?
Yes; it would be a very good Thing; because if we could bring forward more Vegetables they would find Purchasers.

You might consume the Produce of the Land in the Workhouse?
We do at present.

You think it would be a good Thing to have Land to raise Produce, and to sell the Produce?
I have no Doubt it would.

How many Acres would it be desirable to have?
I think we could cultivate Six Acres.

Should you always be sure of a sufficient Number of able-bodied Hand?
I have no Doubt in the Winter-time we should.

How was it that you employed all the able-bodied Labourers which were sent to you upon trenching One Acre?
In the Winter-time they could not do any thing for perhaps Two Months, it was so severe.

Then, in point of fact, they came there, and you kept them in Attendance doing nothing?
For a Number of Hours; they came there at such a Time in the Morning, and then returned in the Evening to their Parishes.

During that Time they did nothing?
I had nothing for them to do.

Could they have trenched a great deal more if you had had Land to trench?
Yes, if the Winter had not been so severe.

But in that Case should you have had the same Number of Men out of Work?
No, nor any thing like it.

Besides, if they had been obliged to trench, probably they would have gone away sooner?
Yes; if we had had a great deal of Ground we might have kept them closer to Work, and perhaps have got rid of them.

If you had had a Hand-mill do you think they would have stuck to that Work?
No, I should think not.

Would a Hand-mill be proper Work for Men who are accustomed to work in the open Air?
I believe they do not work in the open Air; it is not directed to be so; it is to be inside a Shed.

Is not some Employment in the open Air better for agricultural Paupers? It is much healthier. *Mr. J. Johnston.*

Do you know of any of your Paupers becoming ill by being confined?
Never.

With reference to the Question of open Air being better for Labourers, you know that Threshing and Winnowing are performed in a Barn?
Yes; but there is always a good pure Draught of Air in those Places.

Is there to be a pure Draught of Air in the Place where your Hand-mill is to be?
Yes.

Do the Magistrates attend much at the Board of Guardians?
Yes, they do.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Mr. JOHN WISE is called in, and examined as follows: *Mr. J. Wise.*

ARE you Chairman or Deputy Chairman of the Board of Guardians of the Union of Towcester?
No.

Are you Guardian for the Parish of Litchborough?
Not at the present Time; I was in the first Two Years.

Do you know a Woman named Hannah Brown?
Yes.

She has a Son, a Cripple?
Yes.

What other Family had she living while at home, or what had she?
I believe, this Cripple and One or Two more, under Ten.

Do you know what she received when the new Poor Law came into operation from the Parish?
I cannot charge my Memory with it.

Do you know whether she got as much from the new Board of Guardians as she got from the old Vestry?
Yes, I believe she had the same, or at least she had the House Allowance.

Do you remember her being reduced from that, towards Christmas 1837, to 1*s.* 0½*d.* a Week?
I believe she was reduced at the Time we took her Son away and put him Apprentice; of course we took off something, probably 2*s.* 6*d.* I think we allowed the Boy something more than common for his being a Cripple; he was kept at School.

Did you ever talk to her about taking him into the Workhouse?
I cannot charge my Memory with that particularly. If he had not gone Apprentice he must have gone into the Workhouse.

Did you ever say any thing upon that Subject to her?
Not that I recollect; because when I was Guardian the Workhouse was not in Readiness to receive her.

When did you go out of Office as Guardian?
Last Lady Day was a Twelvemonth.

When was the Workhouse finished?
Some little Time before that.

Did you never speak to her at all with respect to her Son going into the Workhouse?
I cannot charge my Memory with any thing particular.

Did you try to get him out Apprentice before?
It was always considered desirable to get him apprenticed as soon as we could get a Situation.

Mr. J. Wise.

Did you ever tell her that he must go out Apprentice, or that he must go into the Workhouse?

I cannot charge my Memory with any thing of the Kind; it was always intended for the Lad to go Apprentice. It appears that her eldest Son was in a fair Situation at Bradford, and it was agreed by the Parish to send him Apprentice to her eldest Son at Bradford.

Was there never any Conversation about sending him Apprentice to somebody else?

I do not recollect that there ever was; it was always understood that as soon as we could get a Situation for the Youth, of course we should be glad to get the Boy away as Apprentice because he was a Cripple. I had a Wish at that Time that she would consent to have the Boy go to the Infirmary; I thought it would be much better for her to have the Boy taken away; and then I thought we could make Interest to get him into some Place as a Lad, and give the Boy an extra Education by the Parish, considering that he was a Cripple.

Had you ever any Conversation with the Mother about cutting off his Leg?

I advised her that I thought it would be prudent, and to her Interest, and a very good Plan, to have his Leg taken off, with a view to getting the Lad into a better Situation.

Why did you think he was likely to get into a better Situation with his Leg off than with his Leg on?

For this Reason: I should presume he would be able to do more with a Cork Leg; I have no Doubt that he would.

You think he would be better with a Cork Leg than with his own Leg?

That is my own Opinion.

Are you a Doctor?

No; that is my own private Opinion.

Have you ever consulted any Surgeon about it?

None.

You had a Notion that, because his Leg was not quite what it ought to be, he would be better without it, and with a Cork Leg?

That was my Idea.

Would you have done the same in your own Case?

Exactly; or if it had been a Son of my own I would.

If you had a Son in that Situation, would you think yourself authorized to have his Leg cut off without a Medical Opinion?

No, I did not say that; because I recommended him to go into the Infirmary, and if they thought prudent to do so, to have it done. It was my private Opinion that I gave to the Mother.

Did you ever call in any Medical Person to see the Boy?

None. There was a Medical Man in the Parish.

Had any Medical Man seen his Leg?

Yes; he was under the Parish Doctor for some Months or some Years.

Did the Parish Doctor recommend him to lose his Leg?

Not to my Knowledge.

What you recommended was, not to have his Leg cut off, but that he should go into the Infirmary, and when in the Infirmary then the Doctors were to say whether he ought to have his Leg cut off or not?

I hardly know how to answer that Question particularly.

You did not attempt to cut it off yourself?

No.

Had you any Thoughts of it?

No.

Supposing a Person to have a violent Headach, would you in that Case advise the Man to have his Head cut off?
No.

Do not you consider that that would be a permanent and radical Cure?
Of course it would be, because it would have ended it.

What is the Nature of the Disease?
I believe that it was first a White Swelling, or something of that Sort. The Boy was a very great Sufferer indeed.

You heard of a Story having been told about your Union at Bradford in Yorkshire?
I never heard of a Word of it till Somebody came to me on Thursday.

Do you know whether there was a Threat of stopping a Loaf from the Woman's Allowance in consequence of any thing that passed at Bradford?
I never heard of it; I should think it was not so; but at that Time I was not in Office as a Guardian.

It might have happened without your knowing it?
I should say I believe she never had less than 1*s.*; but I believe that Woman's Parish is not at Litchborough.

If a Situation as Apprentice had been found for this Cripple, would the Parish or the Union have paid a Premium for binding him out?
The Union would not; it is done by a Charity. We have a Charity to put out Two or Three Boys every Year, and he was bound out by Charity Money. Of course the first Application that we had for that Boy we should have been willing to embrace it.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned to Thursday next, Twelve o'Clock.

Die Jovis, 31° Maii 1838.

The Lord WHARNCLIFFE in the Chair.

SUSAN LING is called in, and examined as follows:

WHERE do you live?
At Wraxhall.

You are a Widow?
Yes.

When did you lose your Husband?
Four Years ago, the 13th of January last.

You have had Twelve Children?
Yes.

All by the same Husband?
Yes.

Some of your Children are out at Service?
No; they have not any particular Service.

First of all, Anne Ling?
She is married.

Hannah?
Whether Hannah is living now I am not able to tell you.

But she is married?
Yes; and is under Confinement, and I left her like to die Yesterday.

Jane?
Jane is gone to Sunderland. She went to America Three Years last Whitsuntide, and returned, and sent me Word that she was married and gone to Sunderland.

Joseph?
Joseph is at work, to the best of my Knowledge, on Mr. Wilson's Account, at Barking.

Does he live with you?
Sometimes. Sometimes he has gone away Herring Fishing Ten Weeks together.

Then he considers your House his Home?
Yes.

Joseph being Twenty-one Years old?
He is coming of Twenty-two.

He works out sometimes, but considers your House as his Home?
Yes.

You say he goes Fishing; is that his Work?
Yes, sometimes, when he has no Employment at home.

When he comes home you do for him; you wash for him?
Yes, I do.

What does he give you for doing that?
He gives me what he pleases.

Susan Ling.

But he gives you something towards keeping your House?
Yes.

That is, not so much a Week, but every now and then?
It is not regular.

Can you give us a Notion what he has given you in the course of the last Six Months?
No, I do not know that I can.

Is it 1*l.* or 2*l.* or 3*l.*?
I am not able to say about that, for when he is away he does not give me any thing, nor help to keep me. He pays the Rent of my House, 3*l.* 15*s.*, to keep a House for the Family.

Then he supplies you with Money to pay your Rent?
He hired the House; it is much the same Thing.

And then he pays the Rent for it?
Yes.

But does he not pay besides for washing and doing for him; does he not give you something for that?
Yes, he does, to help to keep myself, but not to keep the other Children.

And you cannot give any Notion how much he gives you?
No, I do not know.

Do you recollect what he gave you when he came home from the last Herring Fishery?
No; sometimes he gives me something in the Way of Clothes.

Last Winter when he came home what did he give you?
I do not know that he gave me Money; he bought me a Pair of high Shoes, and a Piece for a Gown, or something of that Kind.

Susan, where is she?
She has been Two Months, or it may be Nine Weeks, with her Sister Anne, who is lying-in, and was very poorly, nursing her. She has been all this last Month with her other Sister, who is under Confinement, and who I expect is lying dead at home.

Does she generally live in your House?
Yes; when she is not away about such Jobs, and other Things.

How comes she not to have gone to Service?
I cannot tell you the Reason why, I am sure.

Has she ever tried to go to Service?
Yes; she did at one Time live about Three Quarters of a Year in Service.

How long is that ago?
Six or Seven Years ago. She is a Girl that has not been very healthy.

She stayed Three Quarters of a Year in that Service?
Yes.

And has never been in Service since?
No.

Does she do any thing for her Livelihood?
Yes; she works for Mr. Hillings in the Fields.

Is he here?
If he is not, he will be if he is wanted.

Do you wash for her also?
It is done in the Family; in the House.

Does she wash for herself, or do you do that Work for her?
Sometimes the Girls wash. They are big enough. They help me, and sometimes I help them; but it is all done in the House.

Susan Ling.

What does she earn in a Year?
I am not able to say; 7*d.* a Day is what they have when they work.

And is she employed pretty generally at that Price?
Yes, except in bad Weather.

Then what becomes of her Wages; does she take them to herself?
No; sometimes they do not seem to agree; sometimes they have it themselves, and another Time, if they make the whole Week, and get 3*s.* 6*d.*, they take the Shilling, and give me Half-a-Crown.

Then they do contribute sometimes towards the Support of yourself and your other Children?
I do not think but it is but a little, Half-a-Crown, to take for a Woman.

But be it little or much, they do give something towards the Support of the Family?
No; I cannot say that I can get any thing by them that go to work towards the Family.

You said sometimes they gave you Half-a-Crown?
Yes; but I have to keep them out of it.

But it goes to supply the whole Family with Food, and whatever you want, does it not?
Why the big ones do not think of taking their Money, and bringing it home to give it to me, as my Husband did.

That is to say they do not give you the whole; but you were understood to say, that they do from Time to Time give you something out of their Wages?
Sometimes. I put it together, and that makes it go further.

You said your Daughter went out sometimes to Jobs; does she go out to nurse?
Not generally.

What does William do for himself?
He is shepherding.

Is he a yearly Servant?
No; just as it happens.

What does he get a Week?
I do not know, but I think 7*s.* He has not been with me now for Four Years this August, except about Three Weeks this Time, and Three Weeks some Time after Christmas, or Four or Five Weeks; I cannot exactly say.

Do you wash for him and do for him?
Yes, I have washed and mended for him but for a little while, when he was with his Sister-in-Law that married, my oldest Girl. Mr. Hillings ordered him the Place there, and he does not give me his Money. He gives me a Shilling as a Stranger, but not to bring me his Money.

He gives you something for Lodging?
Yes; Two or Three Weeks he was with me.

How much did he give you?
A Shilling.

For that Shilling were you to wash for him?
Yes; I washed and mended for him.

And then he takes his Wages to himself and gives you a Shilling?
Yes; I do not count him to be with me but at very chance Times; only Twice, I think, for these Four Years, and then for Two or Three Weeks.

But he constantly pays you a Shilling a Week for this washing and mending?
No, not a Shilling a Week.

You do not wash and mend for him when he is not with you?
No.

Susan Ling.

Then whenever you wash and mend for him he pays you a Shilling?
Yes; sometimes a Shilling, because it is not always alike that he will do that.

Mary Anne?
Yes, Mary Anne is with me, and sometimes earns 7*d.* a Day.

She is Sixteen Years old?
Yes; going Eighteen.

Then you have John; does he do any thing for his Livelihood?
Yes; he works with Mr. Hillings, and he has 6*d.* a Day now, and some Time back he had 5*d.* a Day.

Abraham?
Abraham. When I was cut off my Allowance the last Time Mr. Hillings took him to work, and gave him 3*d.* a Day.

What John and Abraham earn do they give up to you to help to supply your House?
Yes; I take their Money, and do as I please with it.

Bathsheba; can she do any thing?
No; Bathsheba and David, I think, for these last Three Months have earned 3*d.* each for picking Potatoes One Day.

Mark can do nothing?
No; he is a little weakly sickly Child.

In the course of the Winter did you apply for Relief?
Yes. I was not well; I was taken with a sharp Pain in my Back; I was not in bad Health, but laid up with the Lumbago, which set me quite fast.

When you had this Lumbago did you apply to the Guardians for Relief, or to the Relieving Officer?
I am sure I do not know; my Son went to the Relieving Officer. I had Two Stone of Flour allowed at that Time.

Which Son went?
Joseph.

And at the Time he went what were you allowed?
I was allowed Two Stone of Flour.

Any thing else?
No; Two Stone of Flour.

You had not 2*s.* besides?
No; they cut it off the Beginning of Harvest; I cannot exactly say the Time, but I could not make out any longer. When they ordered me to Wickham they ordered me One Stone of Flour and 1*s.* 6*d.* in Money for a Fortnight; then I went to Wickham again, and they allowed me One Stone of Flour and no Money for another Fortnight; then I was ordered again, and they allowed me Two Stone of Flour till a short Time back.

You had a regular Allowance of Two Stone of Flour?
Yes.

And you were allowed Two Stone more when you were ill?
I had only Two Stone.

Now you have not been asked any thing about your own Earnings; what can you do for yourself?
It is quite my Employ to do for my Family, and my Son wishes me to keep at home and do for the Family; but since my Allowance was all cut off I have been out and earned some little Money.

At what Work?
Hoeing Peas and Wheat; that is the chief I have done. One Week I did not do more than One Day's Work; sometimes I did Three Days, and sometimes Four Days; but there was Three of them to keep out of what I earned. They did not earn any thing, except One Sixpence, these Three Months, as near

Susan Ling.

as I can tell you. I cannot explain exactly every thing, for since I have lost my Husband with a dismal Smallpox I have been left in great Trouble, and he died in the Morning, and coming in the Morning, and taking him away at Night, it makes a great Difference in my Mind at Times.

What used you to get under the old Poor Law?
I got the same sometimes; it was not a regular Thing. I used to get sometimes 7*s.* or 8*s.*, sometimes 6*s.* 3*d.* or 7*s.*, and so on; sometimes 8*s.*; and sometimes I had a Child that used to go to work and earn something to add to that a little.

When the new Poor Law came in did they make any Alteration in your Allowance?
Yes; I had 2*s.* a Week for myself then, and they allowed me Two Stone and a Half of Flour and 2*s.* Money. There was Five of them did not earn any thing at that Time.

For yourself and these Five they allowed you Two Stone and a Half of Flour and 2*s.*?
Yes.

Just before that had they allowed you more under the old Law?
No, I had no more allowed; no more than what I earned; it was just as it happened; sometimes I had a little Work, and sometimes none to do.

Do you remember the Relieving Officer Mr. Wigg? Do you remember his ordering you to go and nurse Somebody?
Yes, very well.

Who was that Person?
Fanny Wollen was the Woman's Name.

Did you go and nurse her?
He wanted me to go every other Night for Three Nights, and accordingly I told him I would; but I was in great Trouble; I had a Son that I wanted to see after rather; but in the meanwhile I went One Night, and on the Sunday Afternoon she was taken worse, and sent for a Sister-in-Law of mine, and she went to her, and when she came back on the Monday she came up and called me by Name; I asked her first how Mrs. Wollen was, and she said "Better;" and she said "You do not want to go To-night to her, nor yet To-morrow Night, nor yet at all, unless you are sent for; but if you are wanted they will let you know;" and the next Night it was, to the best of my Knowledge, my Sister-in-Law came and said to me, "Mrs. Ling," she said, "the Woman's Daughter is coming that Way down to the Shoemaker's, and if she wants you she will call for you;" I said, "I do not know that I can go now, but as I have promised to go I will slip on some Things and go;" but she did not call for me, and I did not go any more.

You understood there was Somebody with her?
Yes; there were Two with her; there was her Daughter and another young Woman besides.

You met Mr. Wigg upon the Road?
Yes.

Was that the next Day?
No, I do not think it was; no, it was not.

How many Days afterwards?
I do not know.

Two or Three Days afterwards?
I suppose it might be; I do not know the Time.

What did he say to you?
I first asked him, and said, "I have got to go to Wickham;" he said, "Yes, you have;" and I forget now the Words he said.

Susan Ling.

Did he ask you whether you had attended this Woman?
Yes, he asked me, and I said "No."

You told him the Story you have told us, that you were not wanted?
Yes; and he said, "You would not go;" and I said, "They did not send for me; they had my Sister-in-Law, and they did not want me to go; I would have gone Three or Four Nights in the Week, if they had wanted me;" but he said, "No, you would not go."

In consequence of this Conversation with Wigg did you go to the Board of Guardians?
Yes, I was ordered there.

When?
On Tuesday.

To account for not having gone to this Wollen?
I did not know what for; but I was ordered there on Tuesday.

And you went there?
Yes.

What happened when you got there?
They cut all my Allowance off.

Let us hear what passed?
They asked me about going to Mrs. Wollen, and I told them the same; and I was going to say something else, but they said, they had nothing to do with it; I believe I was going to say the Woman lived a Mile or a Mile and a Quarter off me, and did not belong to Wraxhall.

Was there any Remark made about the Poor not going to nurse each other?
Yes, there was something of that Kind said.

Who said it?
I do not know.

Did you beg to be allowed to explain yourself?
Yes; I said I would explain my Story.

What was the Answer to that?
I do not know, for I do not know that I said any thing more.

What did they say when you asked to be allowed to explain?
I do not know.

Did they prevent you from explaining?
Yes; I did not say any thing more.

Did they stop you, or did you stop of your own Accord?
When I was going to speak about what I was going to say, they said I had no Business to say any thing, but was to hold my Tongue.

And they offered you an Order to go to the Workhouse?
Yes; they gave me an Order to go into the Workhouse.

Did you go?
I did not.

Why not?
I went home, and I was sorry about going; and it being near Harvest Time, I thought I would try and make out as well as I could; and Mr. Hillings was a great Friend of mine, and he has been the best Friend I ever found; and by Assistance I made out without going to the Workhouse; and my Son I had for a Week, and had that for the Family.

You refused to go into the Workhouse when they gave you the Order?
Yes; I did not go into the Workhouse; I took the Order and carried it off. Mr. Hillings said if I could make out to live without I was not forced to go.

You

Susan Ling.

You kept the Order by you?
Yes, I did.

And if you had been very hard put to it you would have gone into the Workhouse?
I must.

But you contrived to do without it?
Yes; and I should have been sorry, as I had lived with my Family so long, if I had been obliged to part from them; it would have been almost Death to me to be parted from them; the young Boy is very little and sickly.

He would have gone with you, would he not?
No; he would have been taken away when I got there.

He would have gone with you to the Workhouse?
Yes. Mr. Hillings intended sending the whole of them if I had gone; but I was willing to make out if I could, with hard Shift.

Mr. Hillings has given you Charity, and helped you, and by that Means you have got through?
Yes, he did; he behaved to me as if I was his Sister, though I am so poor.

Have they ever spoken to you about going into Lancashire with your Family?
A great many Times, Mr. Wigg has; it was the first Report to me when the Union first began.

At the Board, what did they say to you?
I think, but I am forgetful in so many Troubles as I have had, that Mr. Barclay asked me what I had allowed me, and I told him; and he said that I might have much more there if I would go.

That is, if you would go into Lancashire?
Yes.

But did they say you must come into the Workhouse?
No; he did not say so then, but that I might earn that in Lancashire.

Did Mr. Wigg ever speak to you about going into Lancashire?
Yes; I have been told of it every Wednesday,—I do not know that he ever missed One, but we will say Two or so,—for some Time.

Tell us the Sort of Terms in which he spoke to you about going into Lancashire?
Eight Wednesdays I think he told me of it out of Nine that I kept account of; and he advised me to go. He wished me to register my Name and my Family; and I said, "No; I could not think of doing any such Thing."

That happened constantly, did it?
Yes.

When he talked to you about that did he ever talk to you about going into the Workhouse?
Yes.

How did he talk to you about that?
He said that if I did not go there they would send me into the Workhouse.

You are sure of that?
Yes.

That if you did not go into Lancashire you would go there?
Yes; that they would be as sure to send me there as I was born; I said, "I must abide by the Consequences." If you, Gentlemen, will believe me, he told me of it several Times.

He said, "If you do not go into Lancashire we must take you into the Workhouse?"
Yes; "they will send you there;" and many a Time that was repeated to me;

Susan Ling.

me; and I said, "No; if it was so much Money laid upon the Table I could not take it to go."

You are Forty-eight Years old?
At that Time I was.

How old are you now?
I think I shall be Fifty Three Weeks before this next Michaelmas.

You are considered a good looking Woman of your Age, are you not?
If I am I suppose it is our Heavenly Father chooses me to be so.

But you do not look now as if you were in very great Distress?
My Looks never pity me. If I could make out with my Children I should be satisfied, for the Last Day will set it all aside. I hope the Lord will soften the good Gentlemen's Hearts to give me some little Assistance.

Do your Children that are at home look as well as you?
No; they look ragged and vagabondlike.

How are they in Health?
They are pretty well, except the little Boy.

Do they look pretty well, and pretty full and comfortable?
Yes; except the One that is ill.

Do the others look well, and full in the Face?
Yes; they do not look particularly bad; they do not look altogether alike. The little Boy looks ill and pale.

What do they live on?
What I can get them.

What Sort of Food have they; is it Bread principally?
Yes; and Mr. Hillings has given me Potatoes. I have had Three Bushels the last Three Weeks.

Have you any Meat?
We have a little Piece of Meat when my oldest Son comes home. He sometimes gets a Piece of Meat. He gets a Pound or a Pound and a Half, and always cuts the rest a Piece.

Does he get any Bacon?
Now and then, or else we do not have it; we cannot manage any thing of that Sort.

Any Fish?
No, nothing of that Kind.

No Salt Herrings?
Yes; we sometimes buy such a Thing as that; we may sometimes have Three Pennyworth when they are about.

Do you sometimes have fresh Herrings?
No; except sometimes when there may be some such Things about.

Then the main Support of your Family is from Bread?
Yes.

Do you have any Cheese?
Sometimes we get a Pound or so on a Saturday Night; sometimes we get Half a Pound of Butter; but when you have to feed Seven or Eight with it it goes but a little Way.

You have some Butter?
A very little Butter.

Do you take Tea?
Yes; I take a Cup of Tea when I can get it.

Do you get it constantly?
No; not constantly. Sometimes my Son will buy me a little, and I take it when my Head aches. Sometimes I would rather have a Cup of Tea in the Morning than a Bit of Victuals.

Susan Ling.

These Children of yours that live with you have been kept in a State fit to go to work by the Food they get at home?
Yes; I have given them all that was to be had as far as I could. They have had all that was to be had in the Family.

Had you ever Occasion to buy Flour besides what was allowed you?
Yes; I have had to buy a good deal of Flour besides what has been allowed me, when there were Four of them that did not do any thing.

Had you Occasion to buy any at the Time they allowed you Two Stone of Flour?
Yes, I was obliged to buy some.

Do you remember what you paid for it?
No. The Flour is now *2s. 5d.* a Stone, or I think it is *2s. 7d.* Last Week One Boy earned Three Shillings and the other Eighteen Pence; One is near Sixteen and the other near Fourteen; they earned Four and Sixpence, and the Girl earned about Two Shillings, and she would have made another Half Day but her Sister being so bad I was obliged to send her there. I do not expect to find my Daughter alive when I go home; from what I saw when I left her I think she has expired before now.

Did you earn any thing yourself last Week?
No, not a Halfpenny. I was with my Daughter who is so very bad; she has been bad for a Month To-morrow Morning.

What is her Husband?
A labouring Man. He earns about Nine Shillings a Week, and when he thrashes he earns a little Bit more, and that is for them and Four small Children.

How long is it since you have had any Work?
I had been at work the Week before that.

What did you earn that Week?
I do not rightly know whether I made all the Week or not.

How much a Day do you get?
Seven-pence.

Have you been allowed any thing by the Board lately?
No, not for Three Months, or Thirteen Weeks it may be.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Jane Grayston.

JANE GRAYSTON is called in, and examined as follows.

WHERE do you live?
At Tunstall.

You are a Widow?
Yes.

How long have you lost your Husband?
Two Years and a Half; Two Years last Christmas.

You have had Twelve Children?
Yes.

By One Husband?
Yes.

You have Seven alive?
Yes.

The eldest is Susannah?
Yes.

Where is she?
In Service at Mr. Erle's at Rendelsham.

Jane Grayston.

In what Sort of Service?
There is only that One Girl kept, so that she does all the Work that there is to do.

She is a Maid of all Work?
Yes.

Is Mr. Erle a Farmer?
No; he is a Steward for Lord Rendlesham.

Do you know what her Wages are?
No; for when she let herself she asked *5l.*, and they said they would give her *4l.* She said she could not take it; and the Gentleman said, "if she is a good Servant Wages shall not part us;" so that she is not certain about the Wages.

When did she go into that Service?
Three Months ago.

Was she ever in Service before?
Yes; she was in Scotland Seven Months before that. She went with a Gentleman from London, and that Gentleman lived there Seven Months, and then was going farther on, and discharged Seven Servants, and they came back to London.

Was she in Service in London?
No; she got that in London.

She came to London to look for Service?
Yes.

How old is she?
Susannah is going of Nineteen.

Then Lydia, is she in Service too?
Yes.

How old is she?
Fifteen.

Where is she in Service?
At Mr. Rogers's, Coach and Horses, Conduit Street, but kept only in Friendship; for Mr. Rogers married my Husband's Aunt, and he took her in Friendship, and keeps her.

Does she receive any Wages?
Not a Bit; but they told her that if she was a good Girl she should have some next Year.

She is no Expense to you?
Not a Bit.

You have Five at home?
Yes; not earning a Halfpenny.

Hannah is one?
Yes.

Does she never earn any thing?
Yes. There are Four of them; they are all small; Four of them have earned *8s. 9d.* since the Death of my Husband Two Years and a Half ago.

Hannah?
Yes; and Mark and John, who are Twins, and then Jemmy, who is Four Years old.

When your Husband died did you apply for Relief?
Yes; I applied to Mr. Wigg, and he ordered me to the Union House.

To the Board?
Yes.

When you went there what did they give you?
Two Stone and a Half of Flour, and *2s. 9d.* in Money.

Hannah

Jane Grayston.

Hannah was at home with you at that Time?
Yes; and Lydia too. I had Half a Dozen at home at that Time.

You have a Brother James?
Yes.

Did he not take Hannah home to his House?
Yes, because she had not a Shoe to her Foot; and he told me he could not give Money, but he would give her a Meal or Two of Victuals, and he kept her Twenty-two Weeks for me.

Was any Alteration made in your Allowance in consequence of that?
Yes. Mr. Wigg came, and said, "Is your Hannah gone to Service?" I said, "No; my Brother took her to give her a few Meals of Victuals, while I got her a Pair of Shoes. Next Week he asked if she was at home; I said, "No;" he said, "We must make some Alteration in your Flour;" I said, "I hope not;" but there was Half a Stone of Flour taken off, and Nine-pence.

And when she came back, what did you do?
Then I went and told him she was come home, and I could not keep her, and he gave me Half a Stone of Flour, and Sixpence.

In fact he did not give so much by Three-pence as you had before she went?
No.

Was it reduced afterwards?
Yes; I was in such low Circumstances, I applied to the Board for more, and they said they could not give me more; and I made a Friend in the Neighbourhood, and he let me have a few Candles to sell; and after I sold a few Things I was ordered to the Board, and they considered that because I sold those Things I must keep my Family, and they took the 2*s.* away from me.

First they took off the 6*d.*, and afterwards the 2*s.*?
Yes; and then I had nothing but the Two Stone and a Half of Flour.

Was it your Father or Father-in-Law that lived with you?
My own Father; he did not live with me; he had a House of his own, and there was a Passage between us.

He is dead?
Yes; he died on the 15th of January.

Had he any Relief from the Parish?
No; we applied to the Parish, but we were refused.

Was that House your Father's House?
No; he paid Four Guineas a Year Rent for it.

You were allowed some Money after that?
Yes; I applied to the Board during the Time he lay so bad; there were Seven of us, my Father, the Five Children, and myself, and then I applied to the Board again, and they allowed me the 2*s.* they had taken off back again.

And some Flour?
No; the Flour remained as it was.

When you applied at that Time to the Board was there not some Conversation about the Money paid for a Licence?
Yes; after my Father's Death I went to the biggest Occupier in the Parish, and I said, "I have One Favour to ask you;" he said, "What is that?" I said, "My Father was in the habit of selling a few Pints of Beer out of Doors. What is your Advice to me about that? If I thought there was Six-pence to be got by it, I should be glad to go on with it; but what is your Advice; shall I go on or drop it?" He said, "Risk it, for I am sure what you have will not support your Family; and if there is any to do about it, we must write to the Board, and help your Case, for your Case is heavy."

Was there not some Conversation about the Guinea?
Yes; I asked if he would stand my Friend, for I had not Money to pay the

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Guinea; and he said, "Who is going to have what few Things your Father left?" and I said, "My Brother is going to have them to pay the Funeral Expenses." He said, "Possibly there might be a Guinea to spare." I told my Brother, and he said, "Perhaps he does not like to do it; I will stand the Gap for a Guinea," and so he did. He sold my Father's Things, and they fetched 10*l.*, and my Father's Debts were 16*l.*

In fact it was your Brother that stood your Friend and found the Guinea?
Yes.

And that Guinea went to pay for the Licence for your Beershop?
Yes.

Do you keep the Beershop still?
Yes.

And this other little Shop?
No, I do not; I only sell a few Sweets and a few Apples.

You were understood to say you sold some Candles?
Yes; but after they flung my Family on me I was in Debt, and could not pay for what I had had.

Was the Beer drunk upon the Premises?
No; only when anybody came for a Penny or a Twopenny Pint of Beer. It is an Out-door Licence.

How much Malt did you brew?
I brewed Two Half Coombs since last Michaelmas. I brewed only once since January.

Have you sold it all?
No; there was a little Cask when I came away Yesterday Morning.

When they spoke to you about this Licence what happened?
I refused to tell them.

After you refused to tell them, what happened?
They asked me to go out, and when I went back again they asked me who paid the Guinea, and I told them I did not think proper to mention his Name.

Did they ask you about your Five Children, and whether you could keep them?
Yes; and I said, "No, I cannot;" and they said, "Then we can."

What else did they do or say?
They gave me a Ticket.

An Order to go into the Workhouse?
Yes; they gave me an Order.

What did you say to that?
I rent it to Pieces.

Before them all?
Yes, they saw it.

You were in the Room?
They saw it in the Yard, I suppose.

They saw it, did they?
Yes; they saw it.

Did you tear it to Pieces in the Board Room, or go out of the Board Room, and tear it to Pieces afterwards?
I took it out in my Hand.

Did you say any thing in the Board Room?
Yes.

What did you say?
I said they were a Pack of Villains, I was so exasperated. I have Five Children

Children, and I left them Yesterday Morning with Three Halfpenny Biscuits. If I said any thing wrong I am sorry for it. *Jane Grayston.*

Did you say, "I know what you are, you are a Pack of Villains?"
Yes.

What had they said before that?
They told me I should go into the House; and I told them I would leave my Children and go to Service.

Did they say any thing to you in consequence of that?
I came home then from that Time.

Did the Board, or any of them, say any thing to you when you made use of this Language?
They said, "Go along with you, go along;" that is all they said.

When you got out, you were very much exasperated?
Yes; and I got out in the Yard, and flung the Ticket about there in Pieces, and after I got out I was so hurt I thought I should have died. I lounged up against the Wall, and cried very much, for I knew when I went Home I had got no Victuals to give my Children, and I knew no one had tried more to ease the Parish than I had. I did every thing that lay in my Power to ease the Parish.

Did you not say something about going to London, and leaving your Children?
Yes; that was the Second Time; that was Three Weeks afterwards.

Did you not sell any thing?
Yes; these few Apples.

And Beer?
And Beer.

Did none of your Children earn any thing?
They never earned Sixpence from that Day to this. I went to the Farmers and told them I had no Victuals and no Money. They said they might pick Stones, and then the Children earned that Money during those Three Weeks.

Do you work yourself?
No; I got a Hurt in my last Labour, and I am not able to go into the Fields. I applied to the Board Three Weeks afterwards again, and Mr. Barclay asked me what I was after. I said I was come to beg Assistance, for I was not able to support my Family. He said, "Then we can;" "Very well," I said; he said, "He would rend me the Order off;" but I said, "Do not do that, for I will not take it." I said, "I shall not come here any more, for I shall not come into the House, and when I think proper I shall send my Children. I will go up to London, and you shall not have me, but you shall have my Children."

Did you come to London?
No; not till Yesterday Morning.

How have you subsisted?
I have got into Debt upon Speculation, thinking I might be allowed something by the Gentlemen in the Parish, knowing that I try for my Living; and they have tried to get me Money from the Board, but they will not allow it me.

Mr. Barclay is only one Person of the Board?
I do every thing that I possibly can to support my Family.

What was your Objection to going into the Workhouse?
Because I and my Children should be parted; I should be no more to them when I was there. If I get there I am a Fixture; I cannot draw them out, nor they me; and I thought that if I could but get on for a few Years I might be able to draw them out; but if I once get into that House I am like an old Settle,—I am a Fixture. Then, another Thing, my Two Children are in Service; they may be like other Servants, and have a few Days Holiday now

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and then, and they may like to come and see their Mother and Sisters and Brothers, and I should like to have them with me. I would do any thing that lies in my Power to support myself and my Family. I do not care what I turn my Hand to, but I am not able to go into the Fields; and that the Doctor certified, and sent a Letter to the Board, to Mr. Barclay.

When?
More than Half a Year ago.

In consequence of your asking him to do it?
No; he knew it.

Was it in consequence of an Inquiry made by the Board of him?
No; he knew that there was a Reason for it.

Why?
Because they wanted to force me into the Fields.

It was in consequence of your telling him what you did that he sent this Letter to the Board?
Yes.

Your Objection to going into the Workhouse is the Separation that would take place between you and your Family; and your Fear that if you are once in it you will not be able to get out again?
I am certain of it, for I have no Friend in the World to give me Assistance. I have but One Sister, and her Husband died of Cholera, and she has got Six Children.

Did your Objection arise from any peculiar Hardship to which you had heard you would be subjected in the Workhouse?
The first Thing I objected to was to being parted from my Children. I have a little Boy Two Years old, and it would break my Heart to be parted from him.

Should you be separated from a Child Two Years old in the Workhouse?
Yes. They take them away at a Year old at the Wickham Workhouse now.

How do you know that?
A Woman who had been in there with her Children told me so.

Did you ask whether your Child of Two Years old would be separated from you?
No, I never did.

Would it not have been as well if you had asked that Question, and had ascertained the Circumstances under which you would have been placed if you had gone into the Workhouse?
I had heard a great many People speak of it who had gone into the Workhouse and come out again, and I thought of course they knew. They had been there, and had had Experience, and Experience ought to teach Knowledge.

Was there any thing else with respect to the Workhouse that made you unwilling to go into it?
My Objection to it is that I should like to have a little House and Home of my own, and be with my Children, and do all I can for their Living, instead of bringing them up in the Workhouse; I wanted to get them into Places, and have them doing something, and possibly, by and by, they might be able to help me.

Did you not declare that rather than go into the Workhouse and be parted from your Children you would take Laudanum and destroy yourself?
Yes; I said that I would go and get Two Ounces of Laudanum, and equally divide it, and that we would all sleep together. I do not know that it will not come to that now; I am sure there will be something take place before I will go to the Workhouse. My Husband put himself to the greatest Inconvenience rather than be on the Parish; he came up to London, and afterwards suffered Shipwreck, and he died also. I was confined at the Time; I had my Breast cut

open

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open, and all because we would not go to the Parish, and this is the Recompence we get. Before I would go into the Workhouse with my Children I would do something; I have said so before, and I will not eat my Words; I would do something, I am sure, and they could not punish me after the Thing had taken place.

You have not, it is to be hoped, any serious Intention of doing any thing of that Kind?

I have no Wish to do it, for I wish to be comfortable with my Children; I would do any thing that lies in my Power for them; but I could not go into the Workhouse with them, and would do something rather than go there. I have said that before, and one Man in particular begged of me not to do any thing of the Kind.

What is Mr. Platt?

A Farmer, and a good Kind of Gentleman; he is a very good Man.

Is he a Brewer?

He is a Farmer, and the biggest Occupier in the Place.

Is he a Brewer too?

No; he is not concerned in that.

Did the Board say any thing to you about keeping the Beerhouse?

Nothing else; only they asked me who paid the Guinea for the Licence. They asked me what I had done for a Living, and I told them I had got an Out-door Licence to try and earn a Shilling, because I was not able to go into the Fields; and then they asked me where I got the Guinea, and I said I did not think proper to mention the Name.

They did not ask you any other Questions about the Beertap?

I believe they asked me how much I drew, and I said I was not able to mention, for some Days I drew Three or Four Pints, and other Days not so much.

What Sort of People are your Customers?

Tradespeople and poor People who can buy a Penny Pint when they cannot brew a Peck of Malt.

Were they Labourers?

No; Carpenters and Butchers and Bakers, and such like.

Was it when you told them what Quantity of Beer you drew that they told you should have nothing but an Order for the House?

Yes; that was when they gave me another Order.

And they said that was all you should have?

Yes; they said if I could not keep the Children they could.

You had stated to the Relieving Officer that you would leave your Family, and go to Service?

Yes; I went to the Guardian, and he asked me to go to Mr. Wigg, and Mr. Wigg told me to go to the Board, and I did go.

But when they knew you were ready to leave your Family, do you not think they might have imagined your Objection to go into the Workhouse was only put forward as an Excuse?

I do not know what to think or say; I know that for Two Months I have not had a Farthing in the World; I know I am scandalously used; I know that, and feel it, for when I go home I have not a Bit of Victuals in the House; I left them no more than Three Halfpenny Biscuits, and know not how they will get on till I return, unless the Neighbours give them some Victuals.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Sophia Booth.

SOPHIA BOOTH is called in, and examined as follows:

WHERE do you live?
At Woodbridge in Suffolk.

Have you any Children living with you?
Only One at present.

Have you received Relief from the Parish lately?
No, I have not.

Have you ever received Relief from the Parish?
Yes.

When did you?
It is Two Months ago since I had any; it was for my Seven Children then.

You had Seven Children at home?
Yes.

What was the Age of the eldest of them?
Now turned of Twenty.

How came he to be at home?
It is a Girl.

Why was not she in Service?
Because she could not get a Place.

Had she tried?
Yes, she had.

Now she has got a Place, has she not?
Now, she is keeping a Man's House.

Has she got into a Situation since your Relief was stopped?
Yes.

Is she a hired Servant, or only gone on a Job?
She is gone to keep a Man's House; she gets Sixpence a Week.

He keeps her, and pays her Sixpence a Week?
Yes.

Now the next one?
She is at home with me.

What Age is she?
Turned of Eighteen.

How comes she to be at home?
Because she cannot get a Place.

Has she tried?
Yes; she tried the Week before the last.

Did she ever try before that?
Yes.

A Year ago, for instance?
She was in Service about a Year ago.

What Service was she in a Year ago?
It was down in Lancashire where she was in Service?

You went into Lancashire?
Yes; I was driven out of my own Country into Lancashire; I reckon it so.

In consequence of a Recommendation to you from the Board of Guardians?
By them.

They recommended you to do it?
They did.

Sophia Booth.

And you took their Recommendation, and went?
I did, to try it.

When you got into Lancashire, where did you go to?
I went to Haywood in Lancashire.

How many Children did you take with you?
Seven.

Who was the Person that you went to at Haywood?
I went to Mr. James Clegg's.

You had received before that Half-a-Crown in Money and Three Stone of Flour?
Yes.

From the Board of Guardians in Woodbridge?
Yes.

Then they stopped that?
Yes; by the first Report, when I first went, they agreed to allow me Three Stone of Flour and Half-a-Crown in Money; it was about Christmas Time.

What Year?
Two Years come next Christmas.

That would be Christmas 1836?
Yes.

You received that for Four Months?
Yes.

Then they stopped a Part of it, did they not?
My Children went to work and earned 2*s.* 4*d.*, which the Relieving Officer requested me to give an Account of, and I did not know that they had earned more than 2*s.*, and I gave an Account, of 2*s.* according to what I knew of; from that he stopped Half-a-Crown of my Money for not giving an Account of the 2*s.* 4*d.*

Did he say that he had been ordered by the Board to stop it?
No, he did not.

He did it of his own Accord?
He said, "What have your Family earned?" and I said, "We have earned 2*s.*;" for that was what my biggest Daughter had told to me; and he said, "Then I shall not give you any Pay this Week;" and he did not.

Why?
He did not say any thing further; he only gave me a Ticket for my Flour.

How do you know that he stopped the Money in consequence of the Mistake about the 4*d.*?
He said he would not give me my Money; he went to Mr. Gross who had an Account of 2*s.* 4*d.* against my Children; I did not know but what it was only 2*s.*

It was in consequence of your having made that Mistake that you were denied this Money?
Yes; my Daughter told me that what was got was 2*s.*; but she had her Shoes mended with the 4*d.*

What did he do after that?
He took me the Week following up to the Board of Guardians; and when I went before them I stated my Case to them, and told them about these 2*s.*, according as I had told the Relieving Officer before, not knowing that he had been to Mr. Gross. I was ordered out, and then I was called in again, and then they said I had told a false Report; I said, "In what Way?" and then they said, "About this 4*d.*;" I said, "I did not know it before when I saw Mr. Cavill, and that I did not know it till I went home again, and then my Girl told me she had got her Shoes mended with the 4*d.*; I asked her why she had not told me right, and told her my Money was stopped for it;" and

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the Board of Guardians declared that instead of 2*s.* 6*d.* I should have 1*s.* 6*d.* in Money, and Three Stone of Flour.

And then you got whatever your Girl could earn?
They never earned any more.

Why did they not earn any more?
Rod-peeling was done then.

How long does Rod-peeling last?
Sometimes Three Weeks, and sometimes a Month.

When you were ordered 1*s.* 6*d.* did you receive it?
No. I went up on the Friday following to the Board, and they gave me the Ticket for my Flour; and Mr. Cavill alluded to my having 1*s.* 6*d.*, and he said if I was not satisfied with that I should not have any.

Who told you that?
Mr. Cavill, the Relieving Officer.

You say you went to the Board?
I did; and they told me I should have 1*s.* 6*d.* instead of 2*s.* 6*d.*, and the Relieving Officer did not give it to me.

What Week was that; was that the same Week that the Order was made that you should have the 1*s.* 6*d.*?
Yes; on the Monday I went to the Board, and the Friday I was to have the 1*s.* 6*d.*, and he would not give it me.

Did he give any Reason?
No; only that there was my Flour.

Did he not give you some Reason?
No; he said when he gave me the Flour that if that would not do I must help myself.

He did not tell you you had deceived him again?
No.

Did you not apply to the Churchwarden?
No; that was the next Week; I made out that Week, as I had my Flour.

Did they give you any more Flour instead of your 1*s.* 6*d.*?
No; I had only my Three Stone of Flour.

Did you apply to the Churchwarden?
I did, the next Week.

Who is that?
Mr. Loder.

What did he do?
He gave me 1*s.* 6*d.*

Out of his own Pocket, or as from the Board?
He gave it out of his Pocket, but I do not know whether it came from the Board; it was one Saturday I went to Mr. Loder, and then I went on the Friday following, and received Half-a-Crown, and the Three Stone of Flour.

That continued for a Month?
Yes.

Did they bring you a Letter to go down into Lancashire?
Yes.

Who brought you the Letter?
Mr. Cavill, the Relieving Officer.

What did the Letter say?
He said, "Well here is a very good Account from Lancashire for you; it will do you good, and your Children;" and he laid it down on the Table, and said, "Elizabeth Booth will receive 6*s.* 6*d.*, Susan, 5*s.* 6*d.*, Caroline, 4*s.* 6*d.* a Week," and he said that every one of my Children, to the full Seven, would bring

Sophia Booth.

bring me in that Money, and that even the young one, Five Years old, would bring me in 1*s.* a Week, winding Ribbons or picking Quills.

Did you know any thing of that Sort of Work before?
No.

Did he tell you what Sort of Work it was?
No; he said there was the Work to do, and that if I did not go to that my Children and me must go to the Workhouse.

Did you inquire what Sort of Work it was, and where it was to be done?
He said it was in a Manufactory.

And he told you that if you did not do that you should have no more Relief?
No more Relief at all.

Did he bring you the Order to go into the Workhouse?
He gave it to my biggest Daughter.

You refused to go into Lancashire?
I did; I continued Eleven Weeks with my Family with what I could gather from the Hedges; I used to gather Blackberries and Sloes, and sell them; and I used to do a little washing; and so maintained my Children, rather than I would part with them, or go into the Workhouse with them.

After those Eleven Weeks were out, what did you do?
Then there was Harvest; and what little Corn we picked up we lived on; what we picked up in a Day we had ground, and then lived upon it.

After those Two or Three Weeks, while that continued, what did you do?
I said to my Daughter, "We have done gleaning, every thing is done with, Work is scarce, and what shall we do? shall we go down into Lancashire, or would you like to go into the Workhouse?" she said, "Why, Mother, I will leave it to you;" I said, "I do not like to go into a Workhouse; you never have been in before; what shall I do?" she says, "Do what you please;" and then by that Reason I did not know what Course to take, and I went to a Guardian that had been a Guardian for Fourteen Years in the Parish of Woodbridge, and stated my Case to him.

You mean the Overseer?
Yes. I said to him, "Now I am got to my furthest, and I do not know what to do; there is such an Account of Lancashire, and of the Money to be earned there, that I do not know what to do for the best; what Course shall I take?" He said, "There is a great Talk about it, and I think that if I were you I would try it;" and upon that I said, "Then I had better go down to Mr. Cavill, which is against my Will, and tell him that I have made up my Mind to go."

And you did so?
I went to him on the Thursday, and he said, "Well, Mrs. Booth; what now?" I said, "Why, Sir, I am come to tell you that I have made up my Mind to go down into Lancashire, for now I have got to my furthest, and I do not know what to do with my Family;" he said, "What a foolish Woman you must be; why did you not take it before?" and he said, "If you do not go down by Tuesday they will not receive you at all;" upon that I went down, and tarried there a Twelvemonth.

Did you sell all your Furniture?
Yes; and I had only from Saturday till Tuesday to sell and make every thing up for my Family.

You were allowed for a little while Two Stone of Flour?
I said, "What am I to do till I go away?" he said, "If you will send down I will give you a Ticket for Two Stone of Flour;" I said, "Oh, you will do that for me now that I am driven out of my own Country!" and then he gave it to me, but he gave me no Money.

Did you ever appear before the Guardians again before you went?
No.

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Did you entreat them to continue this Two Stone of Flour?
No; I only had it that Week.

You did not go to the Guardians again, and say, "If you will allow me Two Stone of Flour I will contrive to do as well as I can, and not go into Lancashire?"
No; I only told it to the Relieving Officer, for he did not suffer me to go before the Board of Guardians.

How did they send you into Lancashire?
Paid my Expenses, and got me some Clothing, and so on. They paid my Expenses down there; and when I got there I was to receive 3*l.* to get Furniture.

Did they give you any Money in your Pocket?
No.

Not Half-a-Crown?
Yes; they gave us Half-a-Crown a Head to get Victuals with.

How many Days were you going?
Eight Days; Five upon the Water, and Three in the Waggon.

What did you get to live upon for that Half Crown each during that Time?
I used to buy a Loaf of Bread at a Time, going through the Villages. I would buy a Piece of Bread as we wanted it.

When you got to Haywood, who was the Gentleman to whom you went?
Mr. Clegg; he received us when we got there.

When you were received there, what did they do with you?
We went into a naked House, not finished; you might run your Fingers into the Walls, for the Dampness of them was so great.

How were you provided with Furniture?
There were Two Nights passed before I was able to get into Bed or undress myself. The next Day I went to Mr. Clegg's, and he gave me Money to get Bedding with.

Which you were to repay him out of the Wages of yourself and your Family?
Yes; 2*s.* a Week was to be stopped till the 3*l.* was made up.

How many of your Children were employed by Mr. Clegg?
Three.

Only Three?
Only Three.

What did they earn?
I cannot tell, for the most I ever received from him was 1*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.* for a Fortnight's Wages.

That would be only 10*s.* 7*d.* for a Week?
That is what I received from him as my Wages.

But you were to receive 6*s.* 8*d.* for one, 5*s.* 6*d.* for another, 4*s.* 6*d.* for another, and 3*s.* 6*d.* for the Boy John. How came you not to get that?
I do not know; I know I did not get it.

Did they not give some Reason?
Through Sickness my Children were not able to work.

They fell sick, did they?
Yes.

And were not able to work their Time?
No, they were not.

Did not your Two Daughters leave you, and go somewhere else?
My Three Daughters left, and went to another Mill.

How do you mean "they left?"
They gave a Fortnight's Notice; they served their Fortnight; and then went to another Factory.

Did

Sophia Booth.

Did they give Notice immediately upon their Arrival?
No; they worked at one Factory for a Quarter of a Year.

During the whole of that Time did you not receive more than 10*s.* 7*d.* a Week for your Family?
Yes; more than that, because I had a Lad went down with me into Lancashire.

Do you mean that you received 10*s.* 7*d.* a Week for these younger Children, and that these bigger Girls, Susan and your eldest Daughter, received the Money for themselves?
No, never.

Then do you mean to say that the whole Earnings of your Family were 10*s.* 6½*d.* a Week?
Yes, that was all.

And they went on working at that Rate for Three Months?
No; that was the last Money I received of Mr. Clegg. What I had received before I do not know.

Did your eldest Daughter ever receive 6*s.* 8*d.*, and was 5*s.* 6*d.* paid for Susan?
No; I never received that. What they received I do not know.

Do you know whether any Stoppage was made?
No.

They did not receive any more Money themselves?
No, they did not.

What did you mean just now by saying you did not know what Money they received?
I took their Wages.

Did they not receive any Money themselves?
No.

You said just now that you did not know what they received?
This was the last Week.

But the first Time, at the Beginning, what did they receive?
That I cannot say.

Did they receive Money?
The first Time?

The first Three Months?
Yes; except the last Fortnight, when I took 1*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.*

Do you know what they received?
No.

What did you live on when they received the Money?
The first Money?

Yes.
I used to have Credit for a Fortnight.

Where did you get the Money at the End of the Fortnight?
From Mr. Clegg.

For what?
For the Work.

Of which Children?
Elizabeth, Susan, and Caroline.

But you say they received Money themselves?
No; when I took the Money the Children did not take it.

When they first went there did they receive the Money?
They used to take it themselves when they first went.

Sophia Booth.

What did they do with it?
They brought it home to me.

What did they bring?
I cannot exactly recollect.

Were they paid every Week?
No; every Fortnight.

You do not know what they brought?
No; only that Fortnight when I received 1*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.* from Mr. Clegg; that was for the last Fortnight.

Before that did you receive more?
No.

How much did you receive?
I cannot say.

Was it as much as 3*l.*?
No; it was never that.

Was it as much as 2*l.*?
No; not with the Boy and all.

Were all the Children at work when you received this Sum?
No; only John, William, and Betsey.

Did they receive as much as had been promised to them?
They never did.

Are you sure of that?
I am sure of it.

Can you read?
No.

Can any of your Children read?
No.

Did you ever see them set down any thing in a Book?
Yes; but what I do not know.

And did they read to you from that Book what the Earnings of your Children were?
No.

Did they never read to you any Account whatever?
No.

As you were told you were to receive so much more than you did receive, what did you do when you found you received so much less?
My Children gave Notice to leave this Factory, that they might get more Wages.

They had Wages?
Yes.

But how much a Week had they?
I cannot tell.

There must have been some Agreement?
Their Agreement was to have that Money I have stated, but we never did receive the Wages we were to have had.

You cannot read, you say?
No.

And they never read to you out of a Book what the Account was for Wages?
No, they never did.

Did the Children never tell you what they had received?
No, never; but the Bargain was made when we went down for my Children to receive that Money, but they never did receive it.

Did

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Did they tell you how much they did receive?
No, they never did.

Did you receive the Money, or the Children?
They used to take it themselves for the first Quarter of a Year every Fortnight.

And you do not know what they did receive?
No.

How came you to go and get 1*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.*?
Because my Children had given Notice to leave that Factory.

How much did you expect to receive?
6*s.* 6*d.* for the biggest Daughter, 5*s.* 6*d.* for the next, 4*s.* 6*d.* for the next, and 2*s.* 6*d.* for John.

You expected that?
Yes.

Was that the Sum you had been receiving for the first Quarter?
I should have received it, but I never did.

How came you to expect it?
Because the Man bargained that he would give them that.

Did you receive less than the Contract Price during the first Quarter?
I did.

How much less?
I cannot tell exactly what I should have had. I only received that 1*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.* for the Fortnight, and the Amount should have been, when he had taken off my Rent of Half-a-Crown, 17*s.* 6*d.* for a Week.

How much short of 17*s.* 6*d.* did you receive when your Children took the Money?
I have not had more than 8*s.* or 9*s.* to myself at a Time in a Week for my Family.

Your Girls gave Notice that they would leave their present Service?
Yes; and they got another Factory.

Did they give Notice because they thought they could get better Wages elsewhere?
Yes.

Did they go to work at this other Factory?
They did.

What did they earn there?
They had 17*s.* 7½*d.*, I think; but I cannot speak to a Halfpenny.

Did they bring home to you this 17*s.* 7½*d.*?
Yes; and a Paper with it, to say that that was what they had earned.

Was that for a Fortnight or a Week?
A Week.

Was that the first Time they brought you Money?
No; they had brought me Money before that.

You never used to receive the Earnings?
No; I never did, except that Fortnight; except from my own Children. Mr. Clegg went to this Master Factor and took them from there. He summoned them up to appear before the Magistrates, and he read the Contract over to them. They said we were almost bound down by the Poor Law Contract for Three Years; and that they must either go back to Mr. Clegg and serve their Time, or go to Prison. They said rather than go to Mr. Clegg, as he did not give them proper Wages, they would go to Prison; and they went to Prison for Two Months.

And then you were left with Two Children?
With Four Children.

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When you were left with Four Children, what did you do?
Then the Poor in Haywood gathered us some Money, one among another. They gathered me *2l.* 4*s.*

Did none of your Children go to Work?
Only John; he went down to Mr. Holmes's, where I received the 17*s.* 7½*d.*, where the other Girls went to. The Child was still kept there, and had his 2*s.* a Week.

That was all your Family earned?
Yes.

Did you earn any thing?
No; for I was not able to get out of my Bed for a long Time.

When they came out of Prison, what did these Girls do?
They were Three Months before they got into a Factory again.

And what Factory was that?
We went down to Crimble, and there got into a Factory, and my biggest Girl, by turning, for Want of Water, did not bring me in Half-a-Crown a Week.

Did you go to Crimble as well as they?
I went to live there, but I never went into a Factory.

What did you pay for your House there?
Half-a-Crown.

What were the whole Earnings of your Family when at this other Factory at Crimble?
Not so much as we received at Mr. Clegg's, because they were scarce of Water, and they had not enough Work.

How long did you remain there?
I remained there Three or Four Months.

And then did you go back?
Then I went back into Haywood again.

When you got back to Haywood did Mr. Clegg employ you again?
No. When I went to this Factory at Crimble I was told, "as Mr. Clegg has discharged your Children from his Service, you had better go and get an Order;" and I went and asked him if he would satisfy Mr. Stott that he had discharged my Children, and he said, no, he would not, and that he took the Children out of Charity.

Who took them out of Charity?
Mr. Stott.

You never went before a Justice to complain that they did not pay you according to the Contract?
No, not till he took the Children before them.

Did you make a Complaint before them then that he had broken the Contract?
Mr. Clegg swore upon the Book that he had been paying them 2*s.* a Week more than he had made a Bargain for; I said, "For Shame, when I never received my proper Wages."

Was there not a Copy of the Contract made before you came from Suffolk?
I never had it; Mr. Clegg had it.

Was that Contract produced?
Yes; it was flung aside; it was no more Good.

But was it produced when you were before the Justices with the Children?
There was a Gentleman read it over, and he said we were almost bound down by the Contract of the Poor Law.

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Did the Magistrates ask Mr. Clegg any Questions?
No, they never asked him any Questions at all. My Children were committed, and I was not suffered to speak to them.

Who were the Magistrates?
I do not know.

How long did you remain at this other Place?
I remained at Crimble Three or Four Months.

And did your Children continue to earn 16*s.* or 17*s.* a Week all that Time?
No.

Till they went into Prison they did, did they not?
Only One Week they earned that 17*s.*, and then Mr. Clegg took them to say they were his Servants.

And then they went to Prison?
Yes.

And during that Time you removed again to Haywood?
Yes; I was in Haywood when they went to Prison, and I remained there till they came out of Prison.

After they came out of Prison, what did they do?
They were Three Months out of Work, and then I went to this Place at Crimble. I had tried several Factories, but they thought it doubtful whether Mr. Clegg would not claim the Children.

You had a Boy with you, had you not?
Yes, but he returned to his own Country again.

You had a Boy with you?
He was sent down with me.

How?
By Contract; by his own Proposal.

What became of him?
He went to work in the same Factory as my Children did.

Did he live with you?
He did.

What Age was he?
Sixteen.

What did he bring in?
He was to have had 6*s.* a Week.

Did he bring it in?
No; he never had it.

Did he tell you so?
Yes; and I know he never had it.

You never got any Money from him towards maintaining your Family?
No.

And you had to keep him?
Yes.

Did he not keep himself if he kept his Money?
He never kept his Money, for he boarded with me, and I had to keep him.

Did he never pay you any thing?
Yes; I used to take his Money with my Children's.

What did you take for him; did you take 6*s.* a Week?
No; for he never earned it.

3*s.*?
No.

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Half-a-Crown?
Yes; as much as that.

You applied for Relief to somebody in that Country?
Yes, to the Overseers, to have them write home to my Parish.

What Overseers?
The Overseers in Haywood.

And you applied for Relief?
Yes.

Did they examine into your Earnings there?
No, they did not.

In consequence of that Application of yours to these People at Haywood, what happened?
They wrote home to the Parish, and they said they would not allow me any thing; and then I had *5s.* of Haywood Parish for the first Month.

And then what happened?
After that, I had no more. I then went before the Justice, to say I must go home again into my own Country, for I could not make a living there. I had got better than *7l.* into Debt, and I thought it was going too far, and therefore gave it up, and determined to go to my own Country. I went before the Justice, and stated my Wish to go home again; and then I had *2l.* of Haywood Parish, and they brought me home to my own Country.

They gave you *2l.*?
Yes; and then they took me home to my own Country. I had *5s.* a Week, when my Children were none of them in work or bringing in any thing. One Child was never able to get into a Factory any more, because being put into Prison caused her to have Fits.

You received something for William and James when your Children were in Prison, did you not?
My Son John, my eldest Boy, brought me in *2s.* a Week, and that was all I had when the Children were in Prison.

Did not William get something?
No, not then.

He got *2s.* a Week some Time or other, did he not?
When Susan went in I had John and William bringing me in *2s.* a Week each of them.

When you did not get the Money from Mr. Clegg according to the Contract, did you not complain?
I said to him one Day, "Sir, I cannot make a Living in this Way with my Children; I have Four small Children not able to work."

Did you ask him why he did not give the Money?
No, I never did ask him, and he never told me the Reason why I did not have it.

Do you remember seeing Mr. Shaw of Woodbridge at any Time?
Yes.

When?
When I went to the Board of Guardians.

Had he not some Conversation with you about your going back again into Lancashire?
That was last Saturday Week.

Well?
He sent for me out in the Rod Yard.

Was there not some Conversation about your going into Lancashire?
Yes, a little.

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And he asked you, did he not, how you happened to come out of there?
Yes.

What was your Answer?
I told him it was because my Family was too small; I could not make a Living.

You had applied for something to the Board before that, had you not?
Yes.

What was that, 2*s*. a Week?
To the Board of Woodbridge?

Yes?
When I came home into my own Country they put me into Nacton House with my Family, and they took my Family from me; I was not permitted to be with them; I was Six Months in this Workhouse, parted from my Children; and then I went into the Washhouse, and asked the Governor of the Workhouse to grant me a Mug of Beer, for I was not able to go through the Work unless I had it; and he said he would give me one. When I went again after Dinner he refused to give it; he said, "Be off to your Room, for I shall not give you any;" I said, "Shut me up if you please; I will not work unless I have it."

You said you would not work unless they allowed you some Beer?
Unless they allowed me some Beer; and then he came down on the Hall to push me from the Room, and I said, "Keep your Hands off me, for I am made of China;" and when he came near he pushed against my Breast, and, knowing I was parted from my Babes, my Spirit rose, and I said, "Damn you; stand up like a Man, and I will fight you as such;" and I catched hold of him by his Shoulders, and jowled his Head against the Door; after that he drove against my Breast again, and knocked me down.

Who was this?
The Governor of Nacton Workhouse. I had a Box in my Pocket which had some Buttons in it and 2*s*. in Money, and the Box split into Pieces by his knocking me down.

He knocked you on the Box?
He knocked me down on the Bricks.

How did that split the Box?
By my Force in falling.

What Part of you came upon the Box?
My Right Side fell upon the Ground.

And upon the Box?
The Box was in my Pocket.

You had some Money in that Box?
2*s*. in Money. When he had knocked me down, and I was lying on the Floor, up came the Schoolmaster running, and he straddled across me, and stuck his Thumb against my Windpipe till I cackled again; and a Woman came out, and said, "What! one Man knock a Woman down, and another come to grip her when she is down; do not do that." Then I lifted my Head up, and I thought at first it was some other Man out of the House, till the Woman spoke, and called him Mr. Cane, and I knew then it was the Schoolmaster. I got up, and got so exasperated, that I said, "You are Irish, are you not? you Irish B—— I will fight you both." I repeated them Words to him.

After this Sort of Fight with these People, did you ever complain of it?
I gave Notice to leave the House to make my Complaint to the Board of Guardians.

Could you not make your Complaint to the Board without leaving the House?
The Board was held at Woodbridge, which is Seven Miles off.

Did none of the Guardians visit the Workhouse?
There used to be One or Two come to Nacton, but they were nothing to my Purpose.

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Did they come?
Yes.

Why did you not complain to them of this Conduct?
Because I knew it was of no Use.

Why not?
Because I knew they would only hush it up.

Did you ever make any Complaint to them before which was hushed up?
No.

Then how did you know that they would do so in this Case?
Because I went by Experience, according to the Treatment they gave me.

How do you mean; had these Guardians ill treated you before?
I considered the Parish of Woodbridge did not treat me well.

But how was that a Reason for not complaining to these Guardians?
Because I considered they had no Business with my Guardians.

The Workhouse was under the Care of all the Guardians of the Union?
That I did not know, so I never made any Complaint.

And is this the first Time you have made that Complaint?
I made it after I came out.

Who to?
To a Gentleman in Wickham.

Who is that Gentleman?
Mr. Lewin was his Name.

Did he make any Inquiry about it?
Not that I know of.

How long ago did you tell this to Mr. Lewin?
The 6th of December this happened between the Governor and me.

Last December?
Yes.

And you never made any Complaint to anybody till you told this Story to Mr. Lewin?
No; for it had been made known to the Parish of Woodbridge by a Person who saw it acted in the House.

Who was that?
A Brewer from Woodbridge.

And who did he make it known to?
To some one in Woodbridge.

Did he make it known to any Guardian?
Yes; for one of the Relieving Officers spoke of it to another Girl, and asked her whether it was the Truth.

Who is that Relieving Officer?
Thurton.

Why did you not go to the Board and make this Complaint?
I was there Six Months, and I came out in March?

How soon after you went into the Workhouse did this Matter happen?
I went at Michaelmas, and this happened before Christmas.

How long after it happened did you remain in the Workhouse?
Till March.

And you never till March said a Word about this Matter between you and the Governor?
No; because I was not got out of the House.

When you got out of the House did you make it known to the Guardians, or any one connected with the Parish?
No; I came out of the House and took my Family with me, and came to Woodbridge

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bridge again; and I went up to the Board, and the Gentlemen said, "What is your Application now?" I said, "I am come to beg a Favour, to know whether you will allow me something for my little Children, and I will endeavour to make out as well as I can." He said, "What do you want?" I said, "If you will allow me 1*s.* 6*d.* a Head I will endeavour to make out with that." And they agreed to allow me Two Stone and a Half of Flour, and 2*s.* in Money. At that Time I had not a House nor a Home to put my Head in, and no Things to make use of; and they said, "What are you going to do now?" I said, "I must do the best I can;" and I thought of course our Guardians would grant me a Room, as they had done before, and let me have a Place to put my Head in; instead of which I went round to them all, and they refused to let me have a Room. Then I was obliged to get Lodgings, which cost me 6*s.* for that Week for my Family; and then I was obliged to deliver up my Children to the Relieving Officer again, and he took them, and gave me an Order for Nacton House. I said, "I will not go in again myself, from the Treatment I have had there before." My Children went into the House, and I got a Place nursing for myself, where I had 5*s.* a Week; and they took me from there, and put me in Prison.

When you went to the Board on this Occasion, why did you not mention all this that happened to you in the Workhouse?
I did not mention it to them.

Why not?
Because I thought it was over and past, and if they would allow me a little to get along with my Children, I would let such Things as them sleep.

In point of fact you never did complain?
I did not.

When you proposed that they should take your Children into the Workhouse, did you see Mr. Shaw?
No; I only saw the Relieving Officer.

Had you no Conversation with Mr. Shaw?
No further than when I went to the Board.

Did you not see him lately?
Yes; I saw him last Saturday Week.

Had you not some Conversation with him?
Yes.

There was another Person with him, was there not?
Mr. Lamb. Mr. Shaw asked me if I did not recollect a Letter he sent to me in Lancashire? I said, "Yes, for I paid 13*d.* for that Piece of Paper;" and I thought the Board of Guardians must have got very poor if they could not afford to pay that to a poor widow Woman. Mr. Shaw said, of course he paid for his own Letter; I said, "You did not, for I paid 13*d.* for that Piece of Paper." He said, "Do you recollect what was in it?" I said, "I recollect it as far as what was read to me;" he said, "What was it?" I said, "it says in your Letter, 'Mrs. Booth, we are informed that by your own Obstinacy your Children are in Prison, therefore the Board of Guardians have concluded never to allow you any more Money.'"

And you came back in consequence of that?
Then it said, "So no more at present from Mr. Shaw, Chairman, Woodbridge Guardians." I told him, "I thought from those Words, 'So no more at present,' that you were a Sweetheart of mine;" and he laughed, and said, "You reckoned that?" I said, "I did." Then Mr. Lamb spoke; and he said, "Instead of Mr. Shaw being a Sweetheart of yours, I expect you have got one in Lancashire." I said, "That is best known to myself;" and then Mr. Shaw said, "Now you have done with me, I suppose."

Have you any Idea of going back into Lancashire yourself?
I do not know whether I shall or not. It will depend on Circumstances, and whether they will let me have my Children or not.

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How many are there in the House now?
Five; and I shall be satisfied if they will let me have my Children to my Cheek, for I would much sooner be in my own Country; but if they will not let me do that I shall leave the Country and go away again.

Into Lancashire?
Yes.

And what will you do there?
I can get my own Living any where. I can go out nursing or washing or any thing else.

And you think you can do that better there than in your own Country?
Yes; because they scandalize my Character in my own Country, and take away my Bread.

How?
They are not satisfied with putting me in Prison, but they must scandalize my Character in the Paper, by saying that I am an insolent and disorderly Sort of Woman; but there is not one of the People in the Place can say any thing against me.

Were you put into Prison?
Yes.

For what?
Because I had to return my Children into the Workhouse because I could not keep them.

Do you remember when you applied before any Observations being made upon the Subject of the Conduct of your Daughters?
No, never.

Was it never said that young Men frequented the House, and that they were leading an improper Life?
No. I consider that I am among Gentlemen now, and not among those that will take away my Life, and I will speak. I was out nursing, where I was getting Five Shillings a Week in the Country, and my Children, Elizabeth and Susan were living at home at Woodbridge; and there were Three Girls that came backwards and forwards to my House and had a Bit of Victuals, but never a Lad was seen in my House after them Girls, but only the Girls: I never knew it then, for it was not repeated to me.

Did the younger Children try to collect any Money by begging?
No; at that Time I was kept Eleven Weeks without Money. I had a Girl at Nacton House who is now turned of Seventeen Years of Age, and is not altogether right, and she would leave my House from Morning till Night, and I would not know where she used to go; and I suppose she was the Child that did beg; and Hunger is a sharp Thorn, and will make them do any thing.

What is her Name?
Caroline; she is the One that had the Fits.

She is not right in her Head?
No; and it is well known by the Gentlemen in Woodbridge that the Child was never right.

How were you fed and treated in the Union Workhouse?
Knocked down as a Beast.

But how were you fed?
I had a Piece of hard Cheese that you could hardly get through with your Teeth, or cut it to Pieces with a Knife.

Was that all you had?
That was all.

For Breakfast, Dinner, and Supper?
There was some Skilly made for Breakfast, which is made with Oatmeal; so many Pints of Oatmeal are taken and put into a Pail, and laid soaking; then it

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it is taken next Morning by Four o'Clock, and boiled up for Breakfast. You get a Pint and a Half of that and a Piece of Bread for Breakfast; at Dinner you get a Piece of Bread and Cheese, but no Drink.

Every Day?
Yes; except Two Days in the Week; one Day you get Two Potatoes and a Piece of Meat.

What Meat?
A Piece of Beef on Tuesday, and Bacon on Friday.

Then what do you have for Supper?
A Piece of Bread and a Piece of Cheese for Supper.

Always Bread and Cheese?
Yes.

Have you not any Meat Puddings or Suet Puddings?
Never a Bit all the Time I was in the House.

Do you know how many Pounds of Oatmeal were put in?
Yes; for I made it many a Time in the Winter. I went when the House was full of People, and I have had 28 lbs. of Groats; that is the largest Quantity I have had.

And how much Water did you use for that?
I used to make Two Coppers of Skilly with it.

How many Gallons were there in those Coppers?
That Copper used to hold, I will say a Dozen, if not more, but a Dozen I am sure, Pails of Water; that is Twenty-four Pails, the Copper Twice over.

And how many Pounds were there to a Gallon?
I had 28 lbs.; that was the most I had.

To Twenty-four Pails of Water?
Yes.

What Quantity of Meat and Bacon had you each Day?
The Bacon is boiled Bacon.

How many Ounces?
Four Ounces of Bacon and Six Ounces of Beef.

Were you better fed in the Prison where you remained a Fortnight than you were in the Union Workhouse.
I would sooner go back to Prison than into the Nacton Workhouse again.

Was the Food in the Prison better?
Yes; the Bread is better and the Cheese better.

You liked the Food better altogether?
Yes.

Had you more of it?
I had more than in the Workhouse.

And while you were in the Union Workhouse you were parted from your Children?
I was.

Were you allowed to see them at all?
By Chance I might see my biggest Children in the Hall; but I was not suffered to speak to them.

You were not suffered to speak to them?
No; that is not allowed.

How long were you in the Workhouse?
I was there from Michaelmas to March.

Did your Health suffer from the Badness of the Diet?
I was ill after being knocked down; my Breast is tender now from the Blow.

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Not from the Diet?
Yes, from not having enough; when I went into this Cookhouse to work I overworked myself; and by that, and living so poor, it brought on an Illness.

Did the Doctor see you when the Illness was brought on?
He came to the House.

Did you complain to him of the Illness?
No; not in what Way it was brought on; I complained to him about Illness, and he doctored me.

Did the Doctor say what the Illness came from?
No, he never did.

He was the Parish Doctor?
Yes.

He was of opinion, was he not, that it was in consequence of a Fight?
I used to have a Piece of dry Bread brought to me when I was in the Sick Ward, and I opened my Basket to the Doctor, and I said, "I cannot eat that; do allow me something else."

What Doctor is that?
Mr. Welton.

Where does he live?
At Woodbridge.

Do you find a great Aversion among the Labourers about you to go into the Workhouse?
Yes.

Do you know of any Cases of Labourers selling their Furniture rather than go into the Workhouse?
Numbers; and pawn their Things too. I would sooner now go to the Gallows than go to Nacton Workhouse to be tied up there. I reckon it being tied up, for you are not suffered to look out, or speak.

How are the Windows?
Quite high.

Cannot you look out of them?
Only at the Brick Walls.

They look into the Court?
Into the Yard.

You do not see the Country about you?
No.

You say you were not allowed to speak to your Children when you met them in the Hall; who prevented you from speaking to them?
The Governor and Governess.

Did you ever try?
The Rules are read when you go in, and they will not allow it.

Did you ever apply to see your Children in private?
Yes; and then the Governor did not refuse me.

Was it not more convenient to talk to them in private than if you had been merely permitted to converse with them where there were a great Number of People present?
Not a bit more; for they come into a Room where a Number of married People are, and you might speak to them just the same.

Could you not go to one Side of the Room and speak to your Children when they were in this Room?
Not without all the People knowing what you say to them.

They would know equally what you said if you talked to them at the Dinner Table, would they not?
Yes.

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When you were allowed to see your Children how long were you allowed to remain with them?
They used to come and tarry with me an Hour or a Couple of Hours.

Was that after or before you were employed in the Kitchen?
Before that.

And you never had as much as you wished to eat?
Never enough to carry me through the Work.

Did any others in the Workhouse make the same Complaint of the Quantity of Food?
Numbers have made the Complaint, and said that the Diet was such that they could not go through their Work.

You acted as Washerwoman?
I did, when I first went into the House.

And after the Doctor had seen you you had a greater Quantity of Provisions?
No; no more than at any other Time; only he allowed me a little Tea and Sugar, and a Bit of Butter instead of Cheese.

Have any Labourers who have been some Time in the Union Workhouse complained to you when they left it that they were weaker and less able to work than they were before?
Very often; I was myself, and so was my Children. I could not go through a Day's Work when I came out as I could before I went in.

Did you find the Work in the Factories disagree with your Children?
It did; it made them very ill.

You cooked Part of the Time while you were in the Nacton Workhouse?
Yes.

Did you see the Diet Table hung up?
Yes.

It was hung up in the Kitchen, was it not?
Yes.

Did you conform to that Diet Table in preparing the Provisions?
That I cannot speak to; I could not read; but in respect to the Diet, it was Three Quarters of a Pound of Potatoes and Six Ounces of Beef for a Man, and the same for a Woman.

What Hours did your Children work in the Factory?
They went at Six in the Morning and worked till Seven at Night.

Was there any Allowance for Breakfast and Dinner?
Yes.

Did your Children complain to you of the Manner in which they were worked in the Factory?
My biggest Child, when she first went, used to faint; and when they came out to their Meals they used to look very bad and very ill; and they have been obliged to come home and leave their Work sometimes for Half a Day; but my little Children would have been much better able to be brought up to the Factories than the big ones.

Did you ever ask the Governor to be allowed to see your Children, and get a Refusal?
No, I never knew him refuse.

Where did you see them?
They used to come into my Day-room.

Is the Day-room attached to the Ward you belong to?
No; the Married Women's Room.

Were there many other Women present?
Yes; all the Married Women were there together.

You never saw them alone?
No.

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You could not tell them any thing in Confidence?
No.

Did you find any more Difficulty on the Part of the Governor after you had had this Fight with him?
No, I never did after that.

Nor before?
No, nor before. One Day Mr. Shaw came through the Ward, in the Sick Ward, when I was lying in the Bed there; and I said, "Sir, pray do be so good as to allow me a little Tea and Sugar, for I cannot eat my Diet;" and Mr. Constable said, "What, is that Booth?" and then Mr. Shaw knew it was me, but he did not know it before Mr. Constable said, "What, is that Booth?" I said, "I was just asking Mr. Shaw to allow me a little Tea and Sugar;" Mr. Shaw said, "What the Doctor orders you shall have;" and Mr. Shaw said, "I will ask about it myself," and he did; and after that I had a little Tea and Sugar, and a Bit of Butter. Mr. Shaw said I should have what the Doctor ordered, and I had it.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned till To-morrow, Twelve o'Clock.

Die Veneris, 1° *Junii* 1838.

The Lord WHARNCLIFFE in the Chair.

Evidence on the Operation of the Poor Law Amendment Act.

Ann Smith.

ANN SMITH is called in, and examined as follows:

WHERE do you live?
At Turnstall in Suffolk.

Is that in the Wickham Market Union?
Yes.

Have you had any Relief from the Union?
Yes.

Had you any Relief before the Union was established?
Yes.

What had you before the Union was established?
6*s.* a Week for myself and Three Children, and what I could earn.

Was it 6*s.* a Week in Money; or 6*s.* a Week, Part in Money and Part in other Things?
All in Money.

You have Three Children?
Yes; one turned of Eleven, another of Thirteen, and another of Sixteen.

They were all living upon you during the Time of the old Law?
Yes.

So they were at the Beginning of this Law?
Yes; and so they are now.

Could not this Child of Sixteen have earned any thing at that Time?
No. It is a Girl who is the eldest; she is Fifteen; the next is a Boy.

When the new Poor Law came in, what Relief did you get?
A Stone and a Half of Flour, and 1*s.* 6*d.* in Money, at the first Beginning of the Poor Law; and I had a Daughter at home, older than these; she had Half a Stone of Flour allowed in Kind, because she was only Sixteen Years of Age.

Is she living with you still?
No.

What has become of her?
She is married.

Have you any other Children?
Yes, I have Two, who are married; the one a Girl, the other a Boy; the eldest is a Boy.

They live separate from you?
Yes.

Now, you have yourself and those Three Children with you
Yes.

What do they allow you now?
A Stone and a Half of Flour, and no Money.

How long have you been reduced to that?
I have received a Stone and a Half of Flour from the Wickham Union since last Christmas; before last Christmas I had One Stone.

Ann Smith.

Had you no Money with it?
No; I have not had any Money.

Your Allowance was reduced at first to a Stone of Flour, and has been increased since to a Stone and a Half?
Yes.

Does your eldest Girl do nothing for herself?
She works when the Gentlemen please to employ her.

Do you mean in the Fields?
Yes.

Does she get regular Work?
No, not regular Work.

What might she earn if she were employed?
Some give her *5d.* and some *6d.*, according to where she works.

That is only in Summer?
Yes.

Does not she get more in the Hay Harvest?
No; we have very little of that; perhaps Three or Four Days Work in the Hay Harvest.

In the Corn Harvest do not they employ Women?
No; there is no Work for us during the Harvest Time; we get a little Gleaning afterwards.

They do not employ you to reap or bind up the Sheaves?
No; nothing of that Kind is done by Women in our Part.

Have you no Employment in the Winter?
No, not after Christmas.

Is not there such a Thing as peeling Rods?
Yes; there is at this Time.

Have those of your Children who are married Families of their own?
Yes. I do not know whether my Son has any; he has been married Four Years; he is in London somewhere, but I do not know where he is.

Is he in Service?
Yes, as Coachman to some Gentleman, but I cannot tell where.

What is the Gentleman's Name?
I do not know the Name of the Gentleman, nor his Direction.

When you were reduced first to the One Stone of Flour, was any Reason given you by the Board for reducing your Allowance?
No.

Were you had up to the Board?
Yes, I was had up to the Board. I had a Stone and a Half of Flour, and it was taken off; and I had an Order for the Workhouse, and I refused to go. I stopped at home several Weeks, and went again to try whether they would allow me any thing. They gave me another Order; and at Christmas they allowed me One Stone of Flour during the Winter and during the Summer following; and I had that Stone of Flour from that Time to Christmas last; then they allowed me a Stone and a Half, neither me nor my Girl being able to earn any thing, and I have not earned a Halfpenny ever since. I have been ill myself ever since last January, and now I am attacked with the Rheumatics, and have no Use of my Left Hand and Arm.

Have you applied for Medical Relief?
Yes, I have, and have been attended by the Parish Doctor ever since last January.

Who is the Doctor?
Mr. Randall in the Parish of Orford.

Had you ever a Doctor of your own?
No, none whatever.

How much is a Stone of Flour?
Fourteen Pounds.

Your Husband's Father lived in a Cottage near you, did not he?
Yes, close to me.

You gleaned last Harvest, did not you?
Yes.

You got some Corn?
Yes, a little; but it was very wet last Harvest; it was very much grown and spoiled.

Were you behindhand with your Rent?
Yes; last Year and the Year before.

Were your Goods seized for your Rent?
Yes.

When was that?
It was a Fortnight before last Michaelmas Day; Three Months Rent, *2l. 5s.* They took my Clock out of my House, and my Chairs and Tables, which did not amount to the Money due to my Landlord, and I had Five Bushels of Wheat I had saved to pay the Rent at Michaelmas, and I let them have it, and paid them 10*s.* in Money, and that was not enough by 17*s.*

How did you get the 10*s.*?
My little Boy went Cow-keeping, and got it.

Who is your Landlord?
Mr. James Sawyer in the Parish of Turnstall.

Your Father-in-Law was a very old Man?
Yes; Ninety-eight Years old when he died.

Had you been in the habit of nursing him?
Yes; when I was not at work, and when I was too; I used to go and do what I could for him.

How near did you live to him?
Not so much as a Quarter of a Mile.

When did he die?
He died the Thursday after last Christmas Twelvemonth.

Had you got any Work at the Time?
I had no Work in the Fields at the Time; I could have gone nursing, but I did not like to leave him, as there was no other Woman to see after him, and therefore I did not go; the Woman did not want me afterwards; she got somebody else, because I was not able to go.

Did not you speak to the Relieving Officer about being allowed to nurse him, and being paid for that nursing?
His Son went to the Guardian, Mr. Miller, in our Parish, for some one to wait upon his Father, and they wrote a Letter to the Board of Guardians in Wickham Market, and I took the Letter myself, and carried it to our Relieving Officer, and delivered it to him at the White Hart where the Board was held.

Did you see the Letter yourself?
No; only they told me it was for an Allowance for some one to go to him. I delivered it to Mr. Wigg; he took it into the Room, and told me there was no Occasion for me to wait; and when I came Home he told me there was 1*s.* a Week allowed. I told him I had no Work at the Time, and could not do it for my Father-in-Law for that 1*s.*; but I did it for him. I never received that 1*s.* but that One Week.

You had another Allowance at the Time, had not you?
No; I was cut off at the Beginning of the Harvest, and had nothing more till the bad Weather came at Christmas.

Ann Smith.

It was during that Time that this happened?
Yes.

You were to be paid 1*s.* a Week, but to get no Allowance?
Yes; but I went and nursed him; I never received but 1*s.*

Do you mean to say you had nursed him before you applied for this?
Yes, and afterwards he gave me 1*s.* for One Week.

Why did not he give you more?
I cannot tell.

Did he say any thing about taking him into the Workhouse?
Yes; he said he thought the best Thing was for him to go into the Workhouse. The poor old Gentleman was willing at first to go if he could be better done for, but he was not willing afterwards.

Did the Relieving Officer say that he would be kept cheaper in the Workhouse than in his own House?
No; he did not say any thing of that Kind; but that he would be kept more sweet and clean there than he could be where he was; that he had not sufficient Things to be seen after.

Why had not he sufficient Things?
He had been a Widower more than Eight Years, and I do not suppose he ever bought any thing.

Was not there some Woman who used to do for him, a Daughter?
Yes; she married and went away.

Did not she take away his Linen?
His Son told Mr. Wigg that she did.

Is it true?
No Doubt it was the Truth, for I found a great Scarcity when I went into the House to do any thing for him.

Did you ever know whether he had Linen enough before?
No; for I never went into the House during the Time that his Daughter did for him.

You do not know of your own Knowledge that the Daughter took away his Linen, but that his Son said so?
Yes.

Had his Son a Wife?
No; there was no Woman there; he told the Relieving Officer that.

Was the Girl the young Man's Sister?
Yes, she was.

Did you report this to the Relieving Officer when he came to see him?
Yes; and he went up Stairs, and saw the State he was in.

Had he a Change of Sheets?
No, there was not.

Had he a Change of Linen?
Yes; he had one off and one on, but not sufficient to keep him comfortable.

Did the young Man tell you what Linen this young Woman had taken away?
No; no further than that she had taken some Sheets away and some Blankets.

Did he tell you that she had taken any of his Body Linen?
No; I did not hear any thing about that.

When the Relieving Officer came to him did you make him observe the Situation in which the poor old Man was?
Yes; I took him up Stairs to see how he lay.

Ann Smith.

Was he lying in a very dirty filthy State?
Yes; and Mr. Wigg said the Room was not fit for any Person to lie in, and that he thought that he would be more comfortable in the Workhouse; that he would be better done by.

Did he keep his Bed at that Time?
Yes.

What did the old Man say upon his observing that to him?
He seemed willing at the first Part to go into the Workhouse, but his Son was not willing that he should; he had no Work, and he could not keep him, nor pay any one for keeping him; but he said he should be there where he was, for he would not let him go in if I would do for him.

Did you say any thing to the Relieving Officer about sending him a Pair of Sheets?
No, I did not.

Was there any Conversation between him and the Son about getting him some Sheets?
Not that I heard.

The Son had a Bed in the same House?
Yes.

Were there Sheets upon that?
Yes; and when I took them off my Father-in-Law's Bed to wash them I took those from his Bed, and put them on the old Man's while I was washing them, to get them on again.

Did you never say any thing to the Relieving Officer about the Necessity of his finding some Sheets for the poor old Man?
No.

Nor any Linen of any Sort?
No; I never asked for any thing for him.

You did not apply to the Board of Guardians?
No.

Was he allowed any thing by the Board of Guardians?
2s. 6*d.* a Week.

Who attended him?
No Doctor attended him. He was an old Man quite worn out with old Age; he was quite childish.

Did not you make an Application to the Relieving Officer that a Medical Man should be sent to see him?
No; he did not wish for him. He said if he had any Medicines he should never take them, nor did not wish for the Doctor.

You mentioned it to the old Gentleman?
Yes; he said he would not take any Medicines if they were brought to him.

Did the Relieving Officer ever suggest whether he would like to have a Medical Man sent to him?
No; he was quite childish and worn out with old Age.

Did the Son never say any thing to the Relieving Officer about sending a Medical Man to him?
Not that I know of.

What is the Reason you and his Son did not think it desirable to have a Medical Man for him?
Because he said he would not take any thing, and I considered he was quite worn out with old Age.

He was not in Pain at all?
No, I believe not; but I was not with him the last Fortnight he was alive; my Daughter was with him.

Ann Smith.

How long after the Daughter took away the Linen did the poor old Man live?

Two or Three Years. It was when she married from Home. She took what she pleased, I suppose.

Did not she take any recently before his Death?

I do not know that she did; she did not come to see him for many Weeks before he died.

You never heard that she had taken some shortly before his Death?

I do not know that she took any after she married away; that was Two or Three Years before he died.

Then he was in pretty good Health?

Yes; he was not a Man in any Affliction till within Four or Five Weeks before his Death, and I never heard him complain of Pain.

How long did he live after the Relieving Officer saw him?

Four or Five Weeks.

The Relieving Officer saw him in that wretched State?

Yes.

With no one to take care of him?

No.

Is his Son a labouring Man?

Yes; but he seldom has any Work.

Did you tell the Relieving Officer that he wanted the Linen to change?

Yes; I told him he had not any thing, and so did his Son; I told Mr. Miller the Guardian so.

When you were called upon to nurse this old Man could you have got any Work?

No, not at that Time; but I should have gone nursing; and they gave me an Order to go into the Workhouse the Week before, and I told Mr. Wigg the Situation my Father-in-Law was in, and he said, "Do not go this Week, but try another Week;" he did not like my Father-in-Law should be left alone.

Did you try that Week?

Yes; and my Brother-in-Law went to Mr. Miller the Guardian on the Tuesday Morning; but that is the Day we go to Wickham to the Board of Guardians, and Mr. Miller wrote a Letter for immediate Relief, and for some one to do for my Father-in-law. I delivered it to Mr. Wigg, and he took it in to the Board, and told me I need not stop; that I might go Home again.

Was any body sent to look after your Father-in-Law?

No; I went back again; and the next Day Mr. Wigg told me there was a Shilling a Week allowed for me or some one else to do for my Father-in-Law; he gave me the first Shilling, but never gave me any more.

Have you ever complained to the Board of Guardians that he never gave you any more?

No.

Why did you not do it?

I did not give it a Thought. Then the Christmas after that they allowed me a Stone of Flour, and my Two little Boys were earning 2*s*. 6*d*. at that Time.

When you go out nursing, what do you get?

Three Shillings a Week.

Did you say that you could not afford to lose your Three Shillings a Week, and neglect your Work?

I had nothing to do at that Time; I had got a Place to go and nurse a Woman; I lost that Place by doing for my Father-in-Law.

What should you have got?

I should have got Three Shillings a Week and my Board.

Ann Smith.

You lost that, and got a Shilling?
Yes, because I did not like to leave him in the State in which he was, and the Lady I was going to was confined at the Time, and so I lost it.

Had you refused this Place before you began to nurse your Father-in-Law?
No; I had engaged to the Place.

Did you ever state to the Board of Guardians the Circumstance that you had lost your Three Shillings a Week by attending upon your Father-in-Law?
No; I told it to Mr. Wigg the Relieving Officer.

What did he say?
He did not make me any Answer whatever, and I told Mr. Miller our Guardian of it, and he said that I must not neglect getting every thing to do that I could do to assist the Parish. I told him I was quite willing to work, and do every thing in my Power to bring up my Family as far as I could.

Did you say you ought to be paid the 3*s*. you had sacrificed?
No; I did not say any thing about the 3*s*.

You never told him you had been engaged at 3*s*. a Week?
No; I told him I was going to nurse, and that I was nursing my Father-in-Law.

The 1*s*. a Week was for you, or some Person who attended the old Gentleman?
Yes; I was there myself or my Girl till he died.

You had no Flour at all at that Time?
No.

Did he require a great deal doing for him?
Yes; he required some one to be always in the House with him, for if he got up some little Time in the course of the Day he was obliged to be taken care of, for he might tumble into the Fire, and if he went into the Yard he could not get in again.

He wanted constant Attendance?
Yes, except for the Night; then his Son was with him, in the Night.

Had his Son constant Work?
No; he was not in work at that Time.

What does he do?
He was walking about; but it was not fit for a Man to do that which there was to do for him.

Was it in the Frost?
Yes.

Was it during the Snow?
No; it was before the Snow came; he died the Day after Christmas Day.

Why did you not speak to the Guardian of your own Parish when you found that Mr. Wigg would not give you more than 1*s*., and represent to him the Hardship of your being kept from your nursing to attend to your Father-in-Law?
I left it to his Son to do that; it was on his Father's Business.

It was not his Father's Business what you were to receive?
No. I did not like to see him in the State in which he was; but I never saw the Woman, and I never made any Application to our Guardian about it, and I went away to see my Sister, and left the poor old Gentleman as well as usual, and left my Father to attend to him while I was gone, and he died during the Time I was gone.

Is your eldest Daughter employed at this Time?
No; she had nothing to do when I left home.

Is not there something to do at peeling Rods?
Yes, there is; but not in our Parish, nor nearer than Wickham Market.

Ann Smith.

She has not been out to work in the Fields yet?
Yes, she has been out Two or Three Days in Two or Three Weeks; but she has had nothing to do last Week nor this.

Have you any Work?
I could have Work, but I am not able to do it; I am lame of my Left Arm with the Rheumatism.

Does the Doctor attendyou now?
Yes.

Since he attended you, have you had any more Relief in Money or in Food?
No Money; I receive Two Pounds of Mutton a Week.

By the Order of the Medical Man?
Yes; but I have not received it for Three Weeks; this Week will make Four.

Why have you not received it?
I asked the Doctor why it was cut off, and he said they would do as they pleased at the Board; that he knew nothing about it.

He did not say it was taken off by his Order?
No.

What is the Doctor's Name?
Mr. Randall.

Have you never complained to the Board of its being taken off?
No, I have not been to the Board.

Have you ever complained to the Guardian of your Parish?
No; I did to the Relieving Officer.

What did he say?
He said it was taken off, but he could not help it.

Why did you not go to the Guardian?
When we go to complain to him he says we should go to the Relieving Officer.

How far off from your House is Wickham Market, where the Board sit?
About Five Miles.

Can you walk as far as that and back again?
Yes.

How does the Relieving Officer behave to the Poor?
There is no one gives him a good Word.

Does he behave with Harshness to you?
Sometimes he does; sometimes he does not speak at all; sometimes he behaves very well; sometimes he is very cross.

Does he come round the Parish every Week?
He lives in the Parish in which I live.

What was your Husband?
A Gardener's Man in a Gentleman's Family; Mr. Archdeacon's, in a Parish near to us.

Do you mean to say he was a Labourer in a Garden?
Yes; a Gardening Labourer.

How many Children have you?
Six.

What Ages are they?
One Twenty-four; that is the Coachman.

How long has he been a Coachman?
He has been in London Eleven Years.

Was he in Service when he came to London?
He went to Service after he came up here.

Ann Smith.

Who brought him to London?
My Father took him to London.

What is he?
He is Ostler in a Livery Stable Yard.

Where is that?
In Northumberland Mews, Nottingham Street.

Is he Head Ostler?
I do not know.

How long is it since you have seen your Son?
Two Years; he lived with Mr. Brown at that Time, but I do not know in what Part of London.

Have you never corresponded with him?
Yes. I was there Two Years ago; I had not seen him since he had been in London before.

You have not seen him since you have been in Town now?
No.

Is he married?
Yes.

What is your next Child?
A Girl; she is Twenty-two.

Is she married?
Yes.

What is your next Child?
A Girl; she is Twenty.

What is she?
She is married, and lives in the same Parish in which I live in the Country.

What is the next?
Harriet; a Girl.

How old is she?
Going of Sixteen.

She is at home now?
Yes.

What are the others?
John, a Boy, who is going of Fourteen.

What does he earn?
2*s*. a Week.

What is the next?
Charles; he is going of Twelve.

What does he earn?
1*s*. a Week.

Have you had any other Children?
Yes; they are dead.

What was your Father-in-Law formerly?
He was a labouring Man.

What Children had he?
He had a Son, William Smith; and then there was a Daughter that is married.

What was the Son?
Gardener to Mr. Archdeacon. Then there was my Husband; then a Daughter, who is married.

What other Children?
A Son that was at home with him when he died. There were others, but they died.

Ann Smith.

That one who lived at home was a single Man?
Yes.

He was not employed?
No; he seldom had Work.

Did he work for the Clergyman?
Yes.

What did he receive?
I think 10*s.* a Week when he was in Work.

It was his House the old Gentleman lived in?
Yes.

Had the old Gentleman any Allowance himself?
Yes; *2s. 6d.* a Week.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Robert Airey.

ROBERT AIREY is called in, and examined as follows:

WHERE do you live?
I live in the Parish of Easton in Suffolk.

In what Union is that?
In the Wickham Union.

What do you do for yourself?
I have been Draining now.

You are an agricultural Labourer?
Yes.

Do you do Piece Work, or are you hired by the Year?
It is only in the Summer we get Task Work; in the Winter-time it is by the Day.

The chief of the Summer your Work is by the Piece?
Yes, if we get a little Draining; we have had a deal of Draining this Summer, but never so much before.

There is more Work now than there used to be?
Yes, at Draining.

You work for a Farmer?
Yes.

What is his Name?
His Name is Boyd.

Does he live in the Parish of Easton?
Yes.

How many Children have you?
I have Twelve.

Is your Wife alive?
Yes.

How old is the eldest of your Children?
The youngest is turned of a Year old.

What is your Age?
Fifty.

What is the Age of the eldest?
Twenty-four.

Where is he?
He is a Soldier.

What is the next?
It is a Girl.

Robert Airey.

What Age is she?
Twenty-two.

Where is she?
In Service, at Mr. Stems at Easton.

What Sort of Service?
A Farmer's Service.

Hired by the Year?
No; by the Week.

What does she get?
1*s.* 6*d.* a Week and her Board.

She is a House Servant?
Yes.

She lives in the House?
Yes.

Is it the Practice of Farmers there to hire their Servants by the Week?
Yes.

What is the next?
A Girl.

What Age?
She is going of Twenty.

Where does she live?
At Mrs. Plant's; she has been there going on of Eight Years; she was Apprentice there.

Is she hired by the Year?
Her Time is out now; it is by the Week.

What does she get?
1*s.* a Week and her Board.

What is the next?
The next is in Service; that is a Boy.

What Age?
He is now turned of Seventeen.

Where does he live?
He lives along with Mr. Boyd, and has been there since last Michaelmas.

That is the Person who employs you also?
Yes.

Is he a yearly Servant?
Yes.

What are his Wages?
£4.

What is he?
He goes to Plough.

He does any Farmer's Work?
Yes.

Does he live in the House?
Yes.

Where is the next?
He is in Service.

What Age is he?
He is now going of Fifteen Years old.

Where is he?
He is at Mr. Hill's, in the Neighbourhood.

Robert Airey.

Is he a hired Servant?
Yes.

What Wages does he get?
30*s.* a Year.

What is the next?
The others are all at home.

What is the Age of the eldest of those at home?
She is now going of Thirteen.

Does she earn any thing?
No; she is a very sickly Girl. The next is going of Eleven Years old; that is a Boy.

Does he earn something?
Sometimes a Day or Two Days in a Week.

What does he gain?
2*d.* a Day when he can get any thing.

Do any of the others earn any thing?
Yes; there is another can get a Day or Two Days in the Week; he gets 2*d.* a Day.

What Age is he?
He is Nine Years old.

What are your Wages a Week?
When I work by the Day I get 10*s.* a Week; if I work by the Piece, then I earn what I can.

Do you earn 2*s.* 6*d.* a Day?
No; I never can earn that. I can make about 2*s.* a Day. I must work very hard from Half past Five to Half past Six at Night to get that 2*s.*; the Land is very hard.

Upon the Average, when you are working by the Piece, how much a Week can you earn?
12*s.* a Week, and it is working hard to do that.

You earn something additional in the Hay Harvest, do not you?
1*s.* a Day during Harvest Time.

Do you earn that during Hay Time?
No.

You take Mowing?
Yes; but we do not get more than 2*s.* a Day, for Three or Four Days.

Do you mow?
Yes.

How are you paid for Mowing; by the Day or the Piece?
By the Piece.

How much do they pay you?
2*s.* an Acre.

Do they give you Beer?
Three Bushels of Malt for the whole Time.

Is that for the Hay Harvest?
It is all for the Harvest; we have nothing for the Grass.

Do you get no more than 2*s.* an Acre when you mow the thick Meadow Grass?
No; we get only 2*s.* an Acre for the whole.

How much a Day can you mow?
We have hard Work to get through an Acre a Day.

Is there any Difference of Price between the low Meadows and the upper Meadows?
No; ours are all low Meadows.

They

They give you Three Bushels of Malt during the Corn Harvest?
Yes.

What do you get during the Harvest besides?
We earned the last Harvest 19*s.* a Week.

How many Weeks does that last?
Six Weeks.

What is the Rent of your Cottage?
3*l.* 5*s.*; there is no Yard at all to it.

Do you make more than 10*s.* a Week by Turnip hoeing?
We take that by the Acre; we got 7*s.* a Week for the last.

How much have you done in the Day?
It is so foul we can earn little more than 1*s.* 6*d.* a Day, it was so bad.

Do they make no Difference between good hoeing and bad hoeing to you?
No.

Beside all this, have you ever applied for Relief to the Parish?
Yes.

Under the old Poor Law what had you?
I had 2*s.* 9*d.* a Week allowed under the old Law, and what my Family could earn.

Since the new Poor Law came in, what have you had?
Since the new Poor Law came in I had 8*s.* Wages, and a Stone of Flour; that was 1*s.* 4*d.* a Day; that was my Wages.

They allowed you a Stone of Flour in addition to your Wages?
Yes.

How long did they continue to allow you that Stone of Flour?
I had it about Six Weeks.

What happened after that?
Then they took the whole off.

Then they left you with nothing but the 8*s.*
I had 9*s.* then.

How came you to get 9*s.*?
Because the Flour got dearer, and the Days got longer, and they advanced us 1*s.* a Week; we worked from Six to Six then.

Have you had any Increase of Wages since that?
Yes; we have 10*s.* in the Summer since last Michaelmas.

That would be last Winter then?
This was the Winter before, when the Poor Law first came forward. My Master said, he had not any more for me to do; he said he had got Two young Men, one at 8*d.*, the other at 1*s.*; and that while he could have them at those Prices he could not afford to give us 1*s.* 6*d.*

When was that?
It was about Two Years ago. Then I went to the Board.

Did you represent this to them?
Yes.

What did they say to you?
They allowed me a Stone and a Half of Flour and 1*s.*; then the next Week I had Three Stone and a Half of Flour and 1*s.*

What were your Earnings that Week?
Nothing at all. I was not at Work. I had that for a Fortnight; then I went to the Church for my Allowance the next Week, but they told me that I could have no more Allowance at all unless I liked to go into Yorkshire. There were all the Parishioners there, and the Pay Officer.

Robert Airey.

What were you to go to Yorkshire for?
I was to go there to weave, they said.

Did you ever weave in your Life?
No; I was always brought up to the Farming Service.

How many of your Children remained with you?
We had only Two Boys at home that could do any thing.

Do you mean to say that they refused to make any Allowance unless you went into Yorkshire?
Yes, they told me so.

Who told you so?
Mr. Hill, Mr. Castle the Overseer, Mr. Borrett, and Mr. Smith.

This was at the Time the Relieving Officer came to the Parish to pay the Poor?
Yes.

Did the Relieving Officer say any thing?
He said we should have nothing unless we went into Yorkshire.

What did you say to that?
I told him I did not like to go to leave my Children that were in Service; that I had no Mind to go, and my Wife had no Mind to go.

After this did they stop any of your Pay?
I had no more from them. I knew a Gentleman in the Parish, who gave me a Job for Eight Days. I had nothing from them.

Did you do your Job?
Yes, I did.

After you had done your Job did you go to the Parish again?
Yes; then Mr. Hill employed me on a Job.

Was that one of the Persons who told you about going into Yorkshire?
Yes; that was the same Mr. Hill; he employed me then for Eight Days.

What had you then?
I had 10*s.*; it was mowing Grass.

From that Time have you been earning 10*s.* a Week?
Yes.

Since that Time have you had any Relief from the Parish?
I had none but during Sickness.

When was that?
It was now turned of a Twelvemonth ago.

Did they send a Doctor to you?
Yes.

Who was the Doctor?
Dr. Jefferson.

Did he order you any Meat or any thing of that Sort?
I had a Pound and a Half of Mutton and some Flour at the Time I was ill, but no Money.

How much Flour had you?
The first Time, I had Three Stone and a Half, and a Pound and a Half of Mutton.

How long were you ill?
Three Weeks at that Time, and a Fortnight after.

During this Time did you get your Mutton and Flour?
Yes.

At the End of the Fortnight were you well enough to go back to your Work?
Yes.

Robert Airey.

How long did you remain in good Health?
I suppose nearly a Twelvemonth.

During the Time you were ill was the Allowance of Food sufficient for yourself and your Family; had you enough to prevent your getting into Debt?
No; I had not enough to prevent my getting into Debt.

Had you any Firing?
None.

At what Time was that?
It was in the Spring Time.

How could you get your Mutton boiled?
I had to buy Coals for that.

Where did you get the Money to buy Coals?
I had enough to buy Coals.

Your Sons were earning something at that Time?
Yes, a Trifle.

Then some Time after that you were ill again?
Yes.

Did you see the Doctor again?
Yes; he came to me again.

Did he order you Meat again?
No; no Meat. They gave me Four Stone each Week for a Fortnight.

He did not think you wanted Meat?
No; I had no Meat nor any Money.

Did the Doctor tell you you should have Meat?
No; he did not tell me I should have Meat.

What was the Matter with you?
I was taken very bad with a bad Complaint which went about.

The bad Complaint which went about last Spring?
Yes.

Are you in good Health now?
Yes.

You cough a little?
Yes, I have a little Cough, but it is but little.

Can you do your Work now?
Yes, I can.

Have you Work to do now?
Yes; I have Work now.

You do not want to apply to the Parish now?
I have not applied to the Parish now.

Have they ever allowed you any Clothes?
No.

You have Six Children to maintain now?
I have Seven now at home.

Do you apply for any Relief?
No.

You have a Son?
I have a Son, who went as a Soldier.

Did he go to ask for Relief at any Time?
He did, and they gave him a Ticket, and he went to Framlingham Castle.

Is Framlingham Castle turned into a Workhouse?
Yes, it was then.

Robert Airey.

There is another now?
Yes, another at Wickham; it was then the Workhouse to put them into at first.

It was a Workhouse before, was not it?
Yes, it was.

Your eldest Son went to the Board for Relief?
Yes, he did.

They ordered him into the Workhouse, and that Workhouse was the same that had been under the old Poor Law?
Yes; it was under the new Poor Law then.

Was he ordered into the Castle or the new Poorhouse?
Yes; it was the Workhouse belonging to their own Parish; the Parish of Framlingham.

Did the Doctor ever visit your Girl who is sickly?
Yes.

How long did your Son stay in the Workhouse?
He was there Two Nights.

How came he to come out again?
Mr. Castle sent for him away, and gave him 2*s.* 6*d.* a Week and his Dinner, and he went to Work for him.

Was that one of the Gentlemen who was at the Church the Day you speak of?
Yes.

How long did he continue to work for Mr. Castle?
He was there Seven or Eight Weeks; then he got another Place at Mr. Hammond's.

Is that in the same Parish?
Yes.

How long did he stay there?
He was there till Michaelmas.

What became of him then?
He went to Mr. Shafto of Framlingham.

Did he get more than the 2*s.* 6*d.* a Week there?
That was just before the Michaelmas. He got 3*l.* at Mr. Hammond's and his Board.

When did he go for a Soldier?
He enlisted just turning a Twelvemonth.

Was that shortly after he was at Mr. Hammond's?
Yes. He had been at Mr. Shafto's at Framlingham as Horse Driver for a Time.

Then he enlisted?
Yes; he is in the Royal Artillery.

How came he to leave so soon?
Mr. Castle had a young Man to whom he gave 3*s.* and his Dinner, and he told him he would not give so much, and my Son said sooner than he would be in the Castle he would go for 2*s.* 6*d.* and his Dinner.

Did he go out on account of any Ill-treatment in the Workhouse?
No.

He did not complain of any Ill-treatment in the Workhouse?
No; he said he had not Victuals enough.

Did he complain of any thing else?
No.

Did he say he had not enough Meat?
He did not have Meat at all; he was not there long enough to have it; there were but Two Days in the Week that they have Meat.

He

Robert Airey.

He happened to be there the Two Days they had none?
He was there One Day and Two Nights; he went there on Saturday Night and left on Monday Morning.

Did he say that but for the Offer he had he should have remained there?
He must have stayed there; for he had nothing.

Have you heard him say so?
Yes.

Was there any Week in which you and your Nine Children lived on 1*s.* 6*d.*, not being able to get more?
There was One Week I and my Seven Children had no more. I was pulling Turnips in a Sharp Frost; we could not pull up the Turnips; he would not allow us to raise them up with a Crow, and because we could not pull them he would not let us do any more that Week. Then there were Four or Five sent for me, and gave me a Day's Work. On the Board Day they said, "Your Master will take you again, perhaps," I went up to my Master; he said he had nothing for me to do.

Did you subsist the whole Week upon that 1*s.* 6*d.*
Mr. Lewin relieved me.

Except what he gave you, had you any thing but the 1*s.* 6*d*?
My Neighbours gave me a Piece of Bread.

Had you nothing but what you got from Charity?
No.

Did you complain to the Guardians?
Yes.

What did they say to you?
They told me to go to the Pay Officer, who was at the White Hart.

What is his Name?
Manning Keir. He told me he would give me a Day's Work, so that I should not go to the Guardians. The Guardians sent for me to the White Hart.

Did you hear that?
No; but the Farmers told me so.

What Relief did you get?
I got no Relief.

You had only that 1*s.* 6*d.*?
No.

You had applied to the Parish Officer, and got nothing?
Yes.

How long did you go on so?
This Man set me on again on the Monday Morning, and I have been at work ever since.

Did you apply to the Relieving Officer as soon as you were out of work?
Yes; not the last Time, for they would not allow me any thing.

Did you ascertain from him that they would not allow you any thing?
Yes; I asked on the Pay Day.

What Day were you out of work?
On the Monday.

On what Day did you apply to the Relieving Officer?
On the Friday.

You went back to work on the Monday?
Yes; they agreed themselves to give me aDay's Work.

Did you continue to work afterwards for the same Man?
Yes; I have been there ever since.

Robert Airey.

How did you subsist from the Friday to the Monday?
I had what the People gave me.

You had nothing but what the People gave you?
No.

Did you buy any thing on Trust?
No.

You did not go to the Shop for any thing?
No.

You have been a Soldier?
Yes.

In what Regiment were you?
I was in the East Suffolk Militia. I was at the Tower when Sir Francis Burdett was there. I was ballotted for.

You did not volunteer into the regular Army?
No.

What Time were you in the Regiment?
Five Years.

What Age were you at that Time?
I was just Two-and-twenty when I was drawn.

You have married since?
Yes.

What aged Man are you now?
Fifty.

Have you any Land with this Cottage you pay 3*l.* for?
Not Half a Rood of Land.

Is that about the same Rent which is paid by your Neighbours for their Cottages?
Other Cottages, some of them, have more Land; they have Yards to them. The Rents are all alike, except Two. They stand in a Yard; but there is no Land belonging to the Cottage; not more than Half a Rood.

Are there so many Houses stand together?
Yes, all enclosed together.

When you met the Relieving Officer and the Gentlemen in the Church, it was the Relieving Officer who first told you you should go to Yorkshire?
Yes; he told me I should not have any more, unless I chose to go to Yorkshire; and the Gentlemen told me so. My Wife said she would not go to leave my Children.

What Reason did they give for that Determination?
I do not know; they wished my Brother to go at first, but my Brother's Family were not big enough, and then they said I should go.

You were to take your Children with you, were you?
I did not like to leave behind those that were in Service.

Did they tell you, as a Reason for it, that they thought you would be better off, and earn more Wages?
They told me I should be better off, and earn more Wages.

But they told you you were to earn those better Wages at weaving?
Yes.

Are you sure that they told you you were to earn better Wages at weaving, or in the Factories?
Yes; at weaving.

Did you ask them how you were to earn Money at a Work you never had learned in your Life?
No, I did not say much about it.

Robert Airey.

There were Four or Five besides the Pay Officer?
Yes; there were Four besides the Pay Officer, and they all said that I should go, and if I did not go I should have no more Allowance.

They all held out the Threat?
Yes, they did; there were Three or Four Witnesses that heard them.

Had you any other Allowance?
I had none till Sickness came on.

How long after was that?
It was some Time.

During the whole Time you had no Allowance?
No.

How many Weeks was that?
I am not able to say; it was just before the Harvest.

Had you sufficient Food to support you during that Time, though you had no Allowance?
No.

Do you think that at all contributed to bring on the Sickness?
Yes; when I had the Allowance I had Victuals enough for my Family.

When you were in your Sickness had you a Sufficiency of Food for yourself and your Family?
No, I had not.

Did you complain to the Relieving Officer that the Allowance was not sufficient?
Yes, I did.

What did he say to that?
He said he could not allow me any more; I said I could not get my Strength up to work.

Did you complain of that to the Medical Man?
Yes, I did.

What did he say?
He said that I must complain to the Pay Officer.

When you applied to the Relieving Officer do you know whether he said any thing to the Medical Man about it?
I do not know any thing of that.

Did you ever complain more than once?
Yes; my Wife complained several Times.

Did you always get the same Answer?
Yes; I got nothing.

Was it to the Board of Guardians your Wife complained?
No; to the Relieving Officer.

During the Time you had this Relief in Food, when you were sick and had not Money enough to get Food for your Children, did you let your Children partake of that which was allowed you?
It was only One Week.

Did your Children partake of that Mutton with you?
Yes.

You all ate it together?
Yes, as far as it went; I had nothing else to give them.

You had Flour?
Yes; but they had nothing to eat with it.

The Mutton was to support you in your Sickness?
Yes.

It was not meant for them?
No; but they had a little Piece as far as it went.

Robert Airey.

They all ate of it, in short?
Yes.

When you recovered from your Sickness did you go to the Board again?
No, I did not?

You did not go to the Board to complain of the Relieving Officer?
No, I did not.

Were you employed by Mr. Borrett?
Yes.

And your Brother George the same?
Yes.

Did he discharge you and your Brother?
Yes.

What Reason did he give for so doing?
He told me he had not Work for us to do, and that he could get Two young Men to do the same Work at 8*d.* and 1*s.* a Day, and how could he afford to give us 1*s.* 6*d.* a Day.

In what State was your Family about the Christmas before last?
They had not any thing to do then.

Was your Family in Distress?
Yes; they had not any thing to pay, nor any Victuals hardly.

Were you obliged to live upon the Corn you had gleaned?
Yes; that was spent

Had you any Means of paying the Rent of your Cottage?
I had to spend the gleaned Corn to get the Rent of my Cottage after the Harvest.

Do you mean that you had to sell it?
No; to eat it.

Had you any Means of buying Clothes for your Children?
No.

Had your Wife any Shoes?
No; she had none to her Feet but what Persons gave her.

Were there Four of your Children who had no Shoes for the Winter?
They had none but what People gave them.

Did they go about bare-footed?
They went bare-footed so far that their Toes were on the bare Ground.

When your Wife washed the Clothes of the Children were they put to Bed all the Time?
Yes; she had no others to shift them with.

You would have been left without Bread for a few Days unless your Neighbours had assisted you?
Yes; my Bread has been gone by Wednesday Night or Thursday Morning.

You mean the Flour you received from the Parish;
Yes.

What Time had you to wait till you got more?
Till the Sunday Morning; sometimes we got a few Potatoes for them.

You have been sometimes on the Friday and Saturday without any Food?
Yes.

What was your Reason for not complaining?
I did complain at the Time; I did not complain last Spring.

Why did you not complain last Spring?
I have had more Work since that than I had had for some Years, and for my Children.

Speaking

Robert Airey.

Speaking of Christmas Twelvemonth, would you have been afraid if you had complained of being sent to the Union Workhouse?
Yes, I should.

But you did complain?
I went to them, and they gave me a Ticket for the House.

Did you go into the Workhouse?
No.

Why did you not go into the Workhouse?
I went round to them, as I was told to go round to them before I went in, and I got Work.

If you had not got Work you would have gone into the Workhouse?
Yes, I must.

In consequence of your going round you got Work?
Yes.

Did you tell those Persons that unless they gave you Work you must go in?
Yes; I showed them my Order; I was told to do so. Mr. Edwards gave me the Ticket.

Was he the Clerk?
He was the Lawyer like in the Workhouse at Wickham.

You say your Neighbours helped you when you were in Distress; were they Farmers, or what?
They were poor People with Families. One gave me a Cake of Bread, and another a Cake of Bread.

Were they more able to help you than you were to help them?
Yes; they had but small Families.

Did you receive Assistance from any of the Farmers in the Parish?
Many of them sent me some Bread; when I had only a Stone and a Half of Flour they sent me a Loaf apiece.

Did they give you any Clothing?
No.

Nor Money?
No.

You say there was a Pound and a Half of Mutton allowed you while you were sick; Part of that you gave to your Children?
Yes.

If they had not had that Mutton would they have had enough to subsist on?
No; they had only a Piece of Bread.

Had they Bread enough to support them?
No, I had not Bread enough.

Do you usually run in Debt at the Village Shop?
I am in Debt now at the Village Shop, and likewise at the Shoemaker's. I owe them a great deal of Money; that I did before the new Poor Law came up, and I have never been able to pay.

Where are your Wife and Children now?
They are at Easton now.

They are not in Town with you?
No.

How are they supported now?
They have nothing.

What are they living on?
I left them some dry Bread when I came away.

Did you leave them any Money?
No.

Robert Airey.

How do you suppose they will get on while you are gone?
I do not know. I told my Master I had Four or Five Shillings coming to me, and told him to let them have it. I could not tell how long I should be kept.

Would they go to the Shop and endeavour to obtain Trust for Victuals?
No; they cannot get any for Tick; they know we cannot pay it now, so that they will not let us go on Tick.

How long has it been the Case that you have not been able to get Credit?
That has been so a long Time.

How long?
More than this Twelvemonth.

Is that the Case now?
Yes.

When you were sick could you have any Trust at all?
No; I could get nothing then on Trust.

Were you in Debt then?
Yes.

How long have you been in Debt?
I have been so now going on Three Years.

That was before the Establishment of the new Poor Law?
Yes. Before the new Poor Law came up I could manage to pay my Way, and so I could go on, and get a few Clothes, but since that Time I can get nothing.

You were in Debt before the new Law?
Yes; but then I could get straight again at Michaelmas.

You used to be in Debt during the Year, and pay up at Michaelmas?
Yes.

Is your Rent in arrear?
There is *5s.* arrear back up to Michaelmas.

At the Shop they do not let you have any thing now but for ready Money?
No; I owe them a good deal now; I cannot get it; and my Wife went round with a Brief a Gentleman drew up for me to go to the Farmers; she got at One Farm House *4s.* There were Cottages sold and pulled down; then they carried me out of the Parish; and I walked Six and a Half Miles a Day for Two Years and Three Quarters to go to Work, and the Parish paid my Rent One Year; then after that they stopped *1s.* a Week.

The Parish have never paid your Rent since?
No.

Would it not be a great Relief if the Parish would take some of your Children off your Hands into the Workhouse?
Yes, it would be a great Relief.

Would you let them go?
Oh yes, I would let them go.

Have you any Pig in your Sty?
No; I have not had a Pig these Ten or a Dozen Years.

Do you belong to any Club?
No.

Why do you not belong to any Club?
Because I cannot get the Money to pay.

You would have been in arrear for your Rent but for this Brief you speak of?
Yes. A Gentleman took it up for me; Mr. Bradish, the Clergyman.

What did she collect under that?
£2; most of the *2l.* she reckoned for the Rent.

Do

Robert Airey.

Do you remember how much Flour you used to buy before the new Poor Law came in?
Yes; I used to have Four Stone and a Half a Week.

How much a Stone used it to be?
It was 1*s.* 9*d.* a Stone before the new Poor Law came up.

Had you as many Children before the new Poor Law as since?
I had Seven at home then.

Was your Condition better or worse than it is now?
I was better off then.

What made your Circumstances better off?
I had 2*s.* 9*d.* a Week, and what I could earn and my Children.

The taking off that 2*s.* 9*d.* a Week has placed you in a worse Situation than you were before?
Yes.

Taking away some of your Children would replace you in the same Situation you were before?
Yes.

How many Stone of Flour do you buy now?
I am obliged to have Four and a Half Stone.

What is the Price?
2*s.* 5*d.*

Were any of your Children employed during the old Law?
Yes.

Are they employed now?
Sometimes they get a Job; sometimes not; but they have less Work now than they had. I earned a good deal more by Work before the new Law than I do now.

How happened that?
I had always constant Employ at the Time. I had a Barn to take my Children in. I wrought more by the Piece then than I do now.

Did you earn more while the old Poor Law was in existence than now?
Yes.

What were your Earnings just before the new Poor Law came in?
I then earned 12*s.* and 14*s.* a Week, the greater Part of the Year round.

Have you been Threshing this Year?
No.

Do you work for the same Farmer now?
No.

What is the Reason?
Because I had so far to walk; I had to walk Six Miles and a Half a Day. I worked Fourteen Years there, and then they took the Cottages down, and I got Work in the Parish; before that I had a Barn to myself; worked by myself. I walked to Kittleborough as long as I could.

A Gentleman bought the Cottages, and pulled them down?
Yes.

That was a very unfortunate Thing for you, for it broke up the Connexion between you and a very good Master?
Yes; I hoped I should keep my Work, and walked across for Two Years and Three Quarters.

Do not you think the pulling down the Cottage, and the Change of your Place, had something to do with the Change of your Condition, as well as with the Change of Poor Law?
Yes, that made a Difference.

Robert Airey.

If you had had a Cottage near should you have suffered so much under the new Poor Law?
No.

You walked Three Miles and a Quarter each Way?
Yes.

You have been in Debt these last Three Years?
Yes.

You do not wish to be in Debt?
No.

If they will not give you Credit how can you get into Debt?
I cannot get into Debt now.

You would wish to pay your Debts if you had Money to do so?
Yes.

How long has the new Poor Law been in operation?
It is now going on Three Years; it is Two Years since Christmas.

You have been in this distressed State Three Years?
Yes; but not so much as since the new Law came in.

You ceased to be in so comfortable a Situation as you had been when you were turned out of this Cottage?
I earned more Money after I was turned out of my Cottage, only I had the Walk.

Is there less Piece Work done in the Parish since the new Poor Law?
No, there is not so much done by Piece; it is more Day Work.

Do you say you have lately been Draining?
Yes, these Four Months.

Was there as much Draining done before as since?
No.

Then in that respect Task Work has increased; that is done by Task?
Yes.

In what Employ has the Task Work decreased; is the Mowing less done by Task Work?
The Mowing is done by the Task when we have any, but we have very little.

What was done by Task Work before the new Poor Law which is not done by Task Work now?
There was a great deal more Threshing done than is now. I worked at another House just when the Poor Law came up. I threshed almost from Harvest to Michaelmas.

Are there more Labourers out of Employ now than there used to be?
Yes.

Where are they?
Before the new Poor Law came up, when they had nothing to do, they had an Allowance.

Are there more People out of Employ now than there used to be then?
I do not know that there are more People out of Employ now than there used to be then.

Are there fewer out of Employ now than there used to be?
Yes, I should think so.

You have stated that the whole Number were employed?
They are almost; we have had Two or Three out of Employ this Summer.

Were they of good Character?
Yes, very good Character. They are sometimes out of Work Two or Three Weeks together, and then they get put on again.

Robert Airey.

Is Work more scarce, or otherwise, since the new Poor Law came up, in your Parish?

I do not know that it is scarcer; I know we have had Fourteen and Fifteen out of Work before that came in.

There are not so many out of Work now?
No.

How happens it that the Work has increased?
I do not know, I am sure.

Have they gone to the Railroads?
No.

You say you are employed by Task Work in Draining?
Yes.

What Depth have you drained?
We have 4*s.* a Score, Two Spits deep, and cut all the Bushes, and carry them to the Drains.

Have many labouring Families left your Parish within this last Year or Two?
Yes; Two Families have left the Parish.

Where are they gone?
One has gone to America, about a Twelvemonth ago.

Were they sent by the Parish?
Yes.

Do any Irish Labourers come into your Place in the Summer?
No.

It is all done by the People of the Parish?
Yes; we have Five young Fellows who do not belong to the Parish in Service in the House?

What made the Farmers take them; do they like them better than the young Men of the Parish?
I suppose they had not any that suited them.

Would none of the young Fellows of the Parish go into the House?
Yes; but we have not many young Fellows.

How much can a Man earn at this Draining Work, taking one Day with another?
Sometimes we get 2*s.*; sometimes a little more; it is about 2*s.*, taking it generally. It has cost me 13*s.* for Blacksmith's Work.

Can your Children help you in the Draining Work at all?
No; they do not know any thing of it.

Cannot they bring the Bushes for you?
No; they are picking Stones.

Do not they drain with Tiles in your County at all?
No; all we have done is with Bushes.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

George Airey.

GEORGE AIREY is called in, and examined as follows:

ARE you the Brother of the Man who has just been here?
Yes.

Have you been a Soldier?
No.

Where do you live?
I live in Easton.

George Airey.

What Family have you?
I have Ten Children.

Before the new Poor Law came in used you to get Relief from the Parish?
Yes.

What did you get?
I used to get about 2*s.* 9*d.* a Week.

Had you then any Wages?
I used to have 10*s.*; according to the Price of Flour.

Did your Children earn any thing?
Yes, when they had Work.

Do you mean to say you got 10*s.* besides what was paid you by the Parish; or that the Parish made it up?
I got 10*s.* besides what was paid by the Parish.

What is the Age of your eldest Child?
About Eighteen.

Is that a Boy?
Yes.

Where is he?
He is living with Mr. Plant.

As a hired Servant?
Yes.

What Wages does he get?
£4 10*s.*

And his Board, of course?
Yes.

What is the next?
A Girl.

What is her Age?
Hardly Seventeen.

Where does she live?
She lives with Mr. Gall of Bramston.

What is the Third?
Her Name is Sarah.

What Age is she?
She is about Fifteen.

Where does she live?
She lives along with Mr. John Blake.

As a hired Servant?
Yes.

What is the next?
The next is at home with me; she is about Thirteen Years of Age.

What is her Name?
Charlotte.

Are all the others at home with you?
Yes.

How many are there at home with you?
Myself and Wife and Seven Children.

How do you gain your Livelihood?
I work for it.

In Farm Work?
Yes.

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George Airey.

What Farm Work do you work at?
I have been Draining the last Two Months.

Do you work with your Brother?
Yes.

What do you earn?
About Two Shillings a Day, and have done for the last Two Months.

Not all the Year through?
No.

What do you get in the Winter Time?
About 1*s.* 8*d.* a Day; when I work all the Week I get 10*s.*

Do they allow you any Beer when Draining?
No.

You buy Beer?
Yes, if we can get Money to buy it.

When the new Poor Law came in, what Alteration was made?
When it first came in I had about a Stone of Flour allowed me with my Family.

What was the Stone of Flour worth?
I think about 2*s.*, but I cannot say exactly.

Have they continued that ever since?
No; it did not go on above Five or Six Weeks; then I had nothing at all.

Have you had nothing at any Time since?
Yes; when I have been in Distress I have had Relief Two or Three different Times.

For a Week or so?
Yes.

Have you been often out of Work?
I was last Year often out of Work; I have not been so this Year.

Do you think you have been more out of Work since the new Poor Law than you were before.
Yes.

What Wages had you under the old Poor Law?
Sometimes 8*s.*, sometimes 10*s.*, according to the Price of Flour.

Has the Relief given you been given in Money or in Food?
In Flour.

Before the new Poor Law came in, did you have Money?
Yes.

Did you mean to say you have not got Work so easily since the new Poor Law came in?
Yes; they used to employ those who had the largest Families always before the new Poor Law came in.

They gave those who had large Families the Preference for Work?
Yes; they said they could get young Men to work for less Wages than we could.

Was not the Reason that Mr. Borrett gave for discharging you that he could get his Work done cheaper?
Yes.

Did not he say that the young Men could do his Work?
Yes.

When did you work for Mr. Borrett?
I have worked for him several Years at different Times; sometimes a Month, and sometimes more; then I have gone off for another Month.

George Airey.

When did you work for him last?
I was at work for him when I came up. It was the last Year that he turned me and my Brother off together.

How long were you off?
I suppose Five or Six Weeks.

Did you go back to him?
No; I went from him to Mr. Sterns.

When did you go back to him?
I think it was just before last Christmas.

Is he paying you less than he would a single Man?
No.

Is he paying you more?
Yes; I am doing Piece Work.

Could that be done cheaper by a single Man than you?
Yes; it is done cheaper.

How much a Score does he pay you?
4*s.* a Score.

What could he get it done for by a young unmarried Man?
He has been having some of it done by young unmarried Men at 3*s.* 6*d.* a Score Rods.

Is it done as well?
I cannot speak to that.

Does your Master pay for the mending of your Tools?
No; we have to pay for that ourselves.

You say you can get 2*s.* a Day at this Work; what are the weekly Wages?
10*s.*

Do your Children help you at all in this Draining; putting in the Bushes, or bringing them to you?
No.

Have any of your Children any Work?
I have One little Boy at work; he earns 3*d.* a Day; 1*s.* 6*d.* a Week.

At what?
Minding some Sheep and Bullocks of Mr. Crisp's.

Since the Poor Law came in are the Farmers more willing to employ you than they used to be?
No; I do not think they are so willing.

Are you better off at this Time than you were?
I do not think there is any Difference in that.

Before the new Poor Law came in were there many out of Employ?
Yes.

Were there as many out of Employment last Winter?
Yes, there were.

How many?
In our Parish there were sometimes Seven or Eight.

How many used to be out of Employ before the new Poor Law came in?
There used sometimes to be Twenty; sometimes not so many.

This last Winter was a particularly severe Winter?
Yes.

Agricultural Work could not be easily got for Seven or Eight Weeks, could it?
No.

There were about Eight Men out of Employment in your Parish?
Yes.

Where did they go; did they go into the Workhouse?
No; I do not know that any of them went in.

Do they allow you to run on Tick at the Shops now?
No; we are obliged to pay ready Money. There have been so many who have not been able to pay them, and they lost so much Money, they will not trust them now.

What do you pay Rent?
Four Pounds.

Have you any Land?
A square Rod.

Have you a Pig?
No.

What Wages did you obtain when you married?
That is Eighteen Years ago last Christmas.

What Wages did you obtain then?
I had 2*s*. a Day.

Did you feel that you could maintain the Children you might have when you married?
Yes.

Had you any other Means of maintaining them but your Wages?
No.

Was it the Practice then to allow so much a Head for Children beyond a certain Number?
Yes.

What was the Allowance?
1*s*. a Head after Two.

Do you recollect what the Price of a Stone of Flour was then?
I think it was 2*s*. 3*d*. a Stone.

What is it now?
2*s*. 7*d*. a Stone.

You say there were Seven or Eight labouring Men out of Employment during the Winter. How were they supported?
Begging about.

Did they receive nothing from the Board?
I do not know that they did not.

Do you know whether any of them sold some of their Furniture?
Some of them did, I believe.

Were they principally married or single Men?
Married Men, some of them.

Did the Collector, Mr. Hayward, a Neighbour of yours, give you a Loaf of Bread of a Pound and a Half?
Yes.

What did you do with that?
Fed my Children with it.

Did you and your Wife go without?
Yes.

Did Mr. Lewin give you some Bread and Beer?
Yes.

Your Wife had Twins that she suckled, had not she?
Yes.

George Airey.

Was your Wife ill from going without Food?
Yes.

Did you go Three Miles for a Doctor next Morning?
Yes.

Have you been Two Days of the Week without Food, except what you got in Charity from your Neighbours?
Yes.

Were any of your Children ever sent to the Union Workhouse?
Yes; I had Two of them there.

One of them was a Girl, Charlotte?
Yes; she was there.

The other was your Son, George?
Yes.

How long did they remain there?
Ten Days.

What did the Girl say with respect to the Gruel?
She said she could not be there any longer; that she should be starved to Death; she could not live on the Diet.

Did the Gruel agree with her?
No; it put her out of Order in her Inside.

Did they state to you that the Rain came upon them in Bed?
Yes.

Were they ill when they came out?
The Girl was ill.

Was she ill when she went in?
No.

Did she apply to the Doctor?
Yes.

Did the Doctor prescribe for her?
Yes, as soon as he had Orders to come, from the Overseer.

Did he prescribe for her while she was in the Workhouse?
No.

How came he not to see her when she was there?
I do not know; I did not know any thing of it till I took her out, and then I found she was ill.

In what State was the Linen of the Children when they returned from the Workhouse?
Very dirty, from the Disease in their Inside.

Had their Linen been changed?
No; they had scarcely any thing when they went in, and they had no Change while they were there.

Had they slept with the other Children there?
Yes; they slept with a Girl who had a bad Disease, and caught the Itch.

Where was this?
At Framlingham Castle.

How long ago was that?
It was just before last Michaelmas Twelvemonth.

It was just before the new Workhouse was finished?
Yes.

Is there the same Master in the new Workhouse as was there?
No; the first Keeper's Name was Smith.

Was

Was it under the new Poor Law?
Yes.

How came the Children to go into the Workhouse?
Because I could not find them Victuals. I had Work to do, but I had but 10*s*., and I think Flour was 2*s*. 6*d*. a Stone. I had Eight at home, and no Employment for them; and I asked all round the Parish for Work for them, and could get none. I applied to the Board of Guardians; they told me that the only Relief they could give me was to put my Children into the Workhouse; and I was told by a Person who had a Child there, that my Child was very sadly; my Wife went to see her, and she could not leave them; she found they were lousy and itchy.

They were clean when they went in?
Yes.

Was her Hair cut?
Yes.

Close?
Yes.

You say some Disorder they had in their Inside had affected their Linen?
Yes.

They had a Purging upon them in fact?
Yes.

Can you keep the Family you have upon your present Wages?
No; I could not find them Food at the Time.

How are they now?
Now, with the Earnings they have, some of them, at work, I can manage to keep them.

If the whole of those were out of Work could you maintain them with your own Wages?
Yes; if they were employed in a Degree.

Supposing them not to be at work, could you by your Wages maintain them?
No, I could not.

They do in point of fact earn something?
I have only one little Boy who earns 1*s*. 6*d*. a Week.

You earn 12*s*. a Week, and the Boy earns 1*s*. 6*d*.?
Yes.

That is all the Earnings of your Family?
Yes.

Has your Wife ever earned any thing?
No; she has done a little by picking Stones, but not of late. She has the Two Twins to attend to.

How do you provide yourself and Family with Clothing?
I cannot buy any thing.

Are they barefoot?
Yes; Two of them had not a Shoe to their Feet when I came away.

How many Weeks in the Year do you get 12*s*. a Week, and how many only 10*s*.?
I cannot say; sometimes we do not get many Weeks at 12*s*.

You earn a little more at Harvest Time, do not you?
Yes.

In the course of the Year how many Weeks do you think you get only 10*s*., and how many Weeks as much as 12*s*.?
I should say Three Quarters of the Year I get only 10*s*. a Week.

George Airey.

Were your Goods seized for Rent last Year?
Yes.

What did you do in consequence?
They took my Things, and I was left in the House; Four Days obliged to lie on a Lock of Straw.

Did you agree to pay any thing per Week for your Goods?
No.

Did you agree to pay the Debt at so much a Week?
No; I was requested to pay by Instalments. The Parish said they would help me if I would pay it by Instalments; I said I could not do it at those Wages I had.

Have you lived in the same Cottage several Years?
Yes; I have been in it Seven Years.

Did the Parish ever pay Part of your Rent?
Yes.

Has your Wife been in much Distress in her Mind in consequence of these Things?
Yes.

Were your Goods sold?
The Parish paid *3l.* 13*s.*

You made them over to the Parish, and they took them, and paid the Rent?
Yes.

Would you have any Objection to some of your Children being taken to the Workhouse if they were taken care of?
Not at all, if they were well done by.

Would that relieve you from a great deal of your Difficulty?
If they were well done by; but I should not let them go to have them done by as they were before.

Would that relieve you from much Distress?
Yes.

Have not the Children been well done by in the new Workhouse?
I believe not; I have heard they were not; I have heard some Complaints from People that have been there.

You do not know that they have not been?
No.

You know only the State in which it was in the old Workhouse?
I was never there.

Was not the old Workhouse under the Government of the new Law when your Children were there?
Yes.

Who was the Matron?
I cannot say.

Was it since the new Poor Law began your Children were in the Workhouse?
Yes.

Do you know whether in the Framlingham Castle Workhouse, where your Children were not attended to, the Children were farmed out by the Master?
Yes, I believe it was so.

They are not farmed out in the new Workhouse, are they?
I cannot say.

Do you mean that the Man was paid so much a Head for them?
Yes.

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George Airey.

You say that there have been great Complaints about the present Workhouse; what is the Complaint?

They say they have not Victuals enough; and they say that the Skilley they have purges them to Death.

That is the Porridge?
Yes.

Did they complain of their Beds or their Treatment in any other respect?
I have not heard any other Complaint.

How long have they called it Skilley?
A Twelvemonth.

Since some have gone into Lancashire?
Yes.

Have you known any Persons who have suffered from the Skilley in the Workhouse?

Yes; there was a Man lived close by me, of the Name of Clover, who died of it, they say.

Did he die in the Workhouse?
Yes.

What aged Man was he?
He was close to Fourscore; he lived near to me.

People of Fourscore die from other Causes, do not they?
Yes.

And sometimes before they are Fourscore?
Yes.

Was he a strong Man when he went in?
Yes.

How long was he in?
I do not think he was in more than a Month.

When did he die?
About Three Weeks back, I think.

How came he to go in?

Because he could not make up out of his Allowance; they allowed him 1*s.* 6*d.* and Half a Stone of Flour.

Did you see him after he came in?
Yes; he came out after he had been in a Week.

Did he complain of the Food?
Yes; he told me he could not live long with it.

He went in again?
Yes; he said he must go in again.

Why?
Because he could not have Relief out.

He had had Relief?

Yes, he had before he went in; but he could not make it do. It was Half a Stone of Flour, and 1*s.* 6*d.* in Money.

That was 2*s.* 9*d.* altogether?
Yes.

How long did he remain out when he came out?
About a Week.

Was he in good Health when he came out?
I do not know particularly.

Do you know whether it was less than he had been allowed before?
I do not know.

George Airey.

Did he tell you that he had the Skilley?
Yes; he said he had been sadly ever since he went in.

Did he tell you that he had had the Skilley?
Yes; he told me that the Skilley affected his Inside; so that it would not stay in him at all, that it worked him to Death.

Was this at Nacton Workhouse?
No; in Wickham Market Workhouse.

What is the Name of the Governor of that Workhouse?
Moore.

Did the Overseer ever tell you that he had relieved once a poor Person in Distress by giving him 2*s.* 6*d.*, and that it was struck out of his Account?
Yes.

Did he tell you that in consequence of that he would not do so any more?
Yes.

Who is the Overseer?
Mr. Jesse Hill; he is the Overseer of my Parish, Easton.

He told you he could not give you 2*s.* 6*d.* out of his own Pocket?
Yes.

Your Children suffered by the Skilley in the Framlingham Workhouse, you say?
Yes.

Did you ever hear of any Persons suffering from that before the new Poor Law came in?
No.

Do you know whether they had any Skilley before that?
No.

Do you know how this Skilley or Gruel is made?
No.

Is it the same Person who is now at Wickham Workhouse who was at Framlingham Workhouse?
No; that was Smith.

How long had he been there?
I cannot say.

You work with your Brother by Task Work?
Yes.

Are there any other Persons working with you?
Yes.

What Description of Persons are they; married or single?
Married.

Have they large Families or small?
One of them has only One at home, and the other has Seven.

There are Four of you?
Yes.

Of which you are one with Eight Children at home, and another is your Brother with Seven at home, and a Third has also Seven Children?
Yes.

You get 2*s.* a Score?
Yes.

Could the Gentleman who employed you get this Work equally well done by young Men with Families at a lower Rate?
I cannot speak to that.

At what Price can he get it done by young Men?
At 3*s.* 6*d.* a Score.

The

George Airey.

The Farmer who employs you is paying more then for the Work to be done by the older Men with large Families than he could get it done for by other Men?
Yes, he is.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Robert Wix.

ROBERT WIX is called in, and examined as follows:

WHERE do you live?
At Mr. Samuel Crisp's of Easton.

What Sort of Servant are you?
Farmer's Servant.

Do you go to plough, and do any Jobs about the Farm?
Yes.

You are in the House?
Yes.

How old are you?
Twenty the 7th of next October.

Have you ever applied for Relief to the Parish?
Yes.

When?
About Two Years ago.

You were Eighteen at that Time?
Yes.

How came you to apply to the Parish for Relief?
I had not any Work, nor any thing to keep me.

Where had you been living before?
I had been living with Mr. Hammond Two Years.

When did he discharge you?
He discharged me about Two Years ago at Michaelmas Time.

How long did you remain out of Employ after he discharged you?
About Three Months.

When did you go to apply to the Parish for Relief?
I went to the Board about Three Years ago.

Was it before or after you left the Service?
After I left the Service.

How long after you left Service did you go to apply for Relief?
About Three Weeks.

What were your Wages with Mr. Hammond?
1*s.* a Week.

You were kept, of course?
Yes.

You had nothing to do those Three Weeks?
No.

Then you applied to the Board for Relief at the End of those Three Weeks?
Yes.

Did you go round to try for Work during that Time?
Yes.

Did you go to the neighbouring Parishes too?
No.

Why did you not?
There were a good many in those Places that had not any thing to do.

Robert Wix.

Therefore you thought you could not get Work there?
I thought I could not get Work there.

Did you apply to the Relieving Officer?
Yes; he wanted to know whether I had been round and tried to get Work. I told him I had been all round, and could not get Work. He said, then I must go to the Board.

Upon what Day did you apply to the Relieving Officer?
A Monday Morning.

On what Day did you go to the Board?
The Tuesday; the next Day.

When you went to the Board, did you state your Case to them?
Yes.

What did they do when they heard your Case?
They allowed me a Stone of Flour and 6*d.*

Where were you living at that Time?
I lived along with my Father and Mother. They allowed me that about Three Weeks; then they cut my Allowance off, and they gave me a Ticket for the Workhouse.

Your Allowance was Half a Stone of Flour and 6*d.*?
Yes.

Then they said they would not allow you any thing out of the Workhouse, and you might come into the Workhouse?
Yes.

Did you go into the Workhouse?
Yes; I went in on Saturday, and came out on Monday Morning.

What made you come out again?
Because I had not Victuals enough.

What had you?
I had the Skilley.

That was for Breakfast?
Yes.

How much?
We had about a Pint of Skilley; not above Half enough Bread.

How much Bread?
Five Ounces of Bread.

At what Time in the Morning was your Breakfast?
At Eight o'Clock.

At what Time did you get your Dinner?
At Twelve o'Clock.

What did you get for your Dinner?
A Piece of Bread and Cheese; Five Ounces of Bread, and plenty of Cheese, if there had been more Bread.

After that, for Supper what had you?
We had Bread and Cheese for Supper; Five Ounces of Bread; plenty of Cheese, but not Bread enough.

You had Fifteen Ounces of Bread, a Pint of Skilley, and some Cheese Twice in the Day?
Yes.

Had you any thing to drink with the Bread and Cheese?
Half a Pint of Beer for Dinner, and Half a Pint for Supper.

You stayed there One Day?
Yes; I went in on the Saturday about Three o'Clock, and came out on the Monday.

They

They had done Dinner when you went in on the Saturday?
Yes.

Did they give you any thing on your going in?
Not any thing till Supper.

You stayed till Breakfast on Monday?
No; I came out before Breakfast.

They gave Meat sometimes, did not they?
Yes; they got Meat on the Sunday Dinner.

Had you not Meat yourself on the Sunday?
Yes; I had Meat on the Sunday Dinner; Three Potatoes, a Piece of Beef, and Five Ounces of Bread.

What was the Size of the Beef?
About the Size of the Cheese.

Had you Cheese besides the Meat?
No, not the Sunday Dinner.

Do you know what they have at other Times?
No.

You only ate a Sunday Dinner; you must have heard from somebody else what they had at other Times when you spoke of their having Cheese?
That was what I heard they had.

What had you for Breakfast on Sunday?
Skilley for Breakfast.

And Bread?
Yes; Five Ounces of Bread.

What had you for Dinner?
A Piece of Bread and Beef, and Three Potatoes.

And at Supper you had Bread and Cheese?
Yes.

Why do you say you had Bread and Cheese for Dinner?
I misunderstood.

You had a Pint of Beer for Dinner and a Pint of Beer for Supper?
Yes.

How much Beef had you for Dinner?
About as large possibly as the Cheese; there was plenty of Beef according to the Bread.

And Three good-sized Potatoes?
Very fair.

If there was plenty of Beef in proportion to the Bread, and plenty of Cheese in proportion to the Bread, what Quantity of Bread do you think you ought to have; what Quantity of Bread could you have eaten?
About Seven or Eight Ounces.

It is the Difference between Five and Seven that you think you ought to have had?
Yes.

You tried it only one Day?
No; I came out, and got a Job at picking Stones.

You had not that Job promised you before you came out, had you?
No.

Did you attend Divine Service on the Sunday; were there Prayers in the House?
Yes; in the Castle we had Prayers at Night, and we went to Church on the Sunday, at Framlingham Church.

Robert Wix.

Had you been in the habit of going to Church before?
Yes; I always went to Church.

Supposing you had been living on your own Wages, what would you have had to eat upon that Sunday?
A Piece of Bread and Cheese; that is all.

Supposing you were earning Day Wages now, what would you have for your Dinner on Sunday?
A Piece of Bread and Cheese.

Why did you complain when you got all that you speak of?
I was quite willing to work, and I did not like being shut up there.

It was because you did not like to be shut up that you came out?
I was quite willing to work.

Was it on account of the Food you had in the Workhouse, or the being confined?
We had not enough Victuals.

What had you in the Farmer's House when you were with him on Sunday?
We had Bread and Meat, and Pudding; just what we liked; we had plenty of every thing.

Why did you leave your Master?
Because I was too old for him, and too big for him. I was Backward Man; and I was not big enough nor Man enough to take another Place.

Should you have left the House if you had not been confined in it?
Yes.

Should you have left it but for the Confinement?
Yes; because I had not Victuals enough.

You had Two Reasons for leaving it; one that you had not Victuals enough, and another that you did not like the Confinement?
Yes.

When you got out of the Workhouse for whom did you go to work?
I went to work for the Person I work for now.

Had you applied to him before you went in?
Yes.

What induced him to give you Work?
He had a young Man who was picking Stones who is now gone to America; he left the Work because he could not get enough, and went into the Workhouse.

Do you mean that you got the Work he had left?
Yes.

Why did he choose to go into the Workhouse?
Because we had so much bad Weather in the Depth of Winter he could not earn enough at picking Stones.

Did you earn enough to get a Piece of Bread?
Yes; I got just enough. My Mother went and helped me to make up my Complement. I had 6*d.* a Day.

What did you earn at picking Stones?
Sixpence a Day; Three Shillings a Week. The Reason she helped me was that we had bad Weather, and I could not always do it.

You and your Mother earned Sixpence a Day?
Yes.

You never went back to the Workhouse?
No.

How did you contrive to live on that 6*d.* a Day?
I went on for a short Time, and then my Master gave me a Shilling a Day.

How

Robert Wix.

How did you live when you had but 6*d.*?
I got on by Chance. Sometimes a Neighbour would give me a little.

Were you able to get as much as you could eat upon 3*s.* a Week?
No.

Could you on the 3*s.* a Week do better than you had done in the House?
Yes; I had a little more out of the 3*s.* than I could have got in the Workhouse.

Had you any Meat at all upon that 3*s.* a Week?
No.

You could not buy yourself any Meat out of that?
No; but I had more Bread.

Not so much Cheese, perhaps?
No; I did not mind the Cheese if I could get plenty of Bread.

It was only the Want of Bread you felt?
Yes.

You have never been in the Workhouse since?
No.

You have got yourself into Work since?
Yes. I was at work at Mr. Crisp's picking Stones, and he kept me on till after Michaelmas.

Did he pay you by the Week?
Yes.

What did you earn by the Week?
He gave me 10*d.* a Day for a Time till the Summer, and then he gave me 1*s.* a Day; then I had nothing to do in the Winter, then I went with a Neighbour catching Rats, and then after March I went round to the Farmers to ask them to allow me a Trifle to go away; they allowed me 16*s.*, and I went 200 Miles to try to get Work.

Are you now in a Place?
Yes.

Where are you at work now?
I am at Mr. Crisp's.

What does he pay you?
£5 a Year.

Now you are pretty well off?
Yes.

There was another young Man went into the House at the same Time with you?
There were Four of us went in.

Did they stay in the House?
They came out with me.

Did they complain of not getting enough to eat?
Yes.

Did they like the Confinement?
No.

Did they get Work?
Another got Work; he went round to the Farmers, and sometimes he picked up Two-pence, and sometimes a Meal of Victuals, and so on. There was another stayed in Three Weeks after we came out; he had no Work, and went about, and I do not know where he has gone since, but at last he went to America.

Was he a stout healthy young Man when he went into the Workhouse?
Yes.

Robert Wix.

What Age was he?
About my Age.

When he came out how did he look?
He looked wonderfully bad; I did not see much of him; he went off to America.

Did he look very thin?
Yes; he lay about in a Hayloft; he had neither Father nor Mother.

Had he any Disorder upon him?
No.

Was he thinner than when he went in?
Yes.

You did not stay long enough for it to have any Effect upon you in making you thin?
No.

Did you see him after he came out of the Workhouse?
Yes; he came to me when I was picking Stones.

Perhaps he looked pale from his Confinement?
Yes.

Did he complain of having been purged by the Skilley?
Yes.

Did he say he had a Purging upon him when he came out?
I never heard him say it.

What are you earning now?
I got 1*s.* a Week for the first Six Weeks, and now I get 1*s.* 6*d.* I get 5*l.* for the Year from Michaelmas to Michaelmas, and live at my Master's.

How long have you been at your Master's?
I went there last Michaelmas.

Have the other young Men who came out with you got Service?
There was one went to America, another is dead, and another has enlisted for a Soldier.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

George Airey.

GEORGE AIREY is again called in, and further examined as follows:

WHEN you are at work, and your Family upon your Hands, can you get Fifteen Ounces of Bread a Day?
No.

Or any thing like it?
No.

Do you know what Quantity you usually eat?
No; but we never can get enough.

Did you always get enough under the old Poor Law?
Yes; I had always enough then.

What do you do with the Flour you get?
We make Bread of it.

Do you bake it in your own House?
Yes.

You have an Oven?
Yes.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Robert Airey.

ROBERT AIREY is again called in, and further examined as follows:

WHEN you are at full Work can you earn enough to find each of your Family in Fifteen Ounces of Bread a Day, and some Meat and some Cheese?
No.

How much per Day do you get to eat; how many Ounces of Bread?
It is in Penny Loaves.

How much does a Penny Loaf weigh; a Pound?
No.

Do you eat Two Penny Loaves?
Yes; over Three; Two will not last me at hard Work.

Do you eat any Cheese with it?
Yes, sometimes I do; sometimes I have not got it.

How many Penny Loaves would make a Quartern Loaf?
I cannot tell; I never weighed it.

How long should you be eating a Quartern Loaf?
It would not last me more than Two Days.

Do you know what a Quartern Loaf weighs?
It should weigh a Quarter of a Stone.

That you eat in Two Days?
Yes.

You want about Four then?
Yes.

With some Cheese, but without Beer?
Yes; I have no Beer.

And no Meat at all?
No.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Mr. S. Leek.

Mr. STEPHEN LEEK is called in, and examined as follows:

WHAT is your Profession?
I am a Basket Maker, and grow Nine or Ten Acres of Rods.

Do you know any thing of the Widow Cotton?
I know her very well; she lives within Five Doors of my House.

What do you know of her?
I know her to be a Widow with a large Family, and in Distress. At different Times I have lent her Money when she has been in Distress.

Is she an industrious Person?
She is a Woman not able to work; she has Certificates from a Medical Doctor to that Effect. At different Times when I have been Overseer she never could go to nursing on that Account.

Did you employ any of her Children?
I had one Boy Apprentice with me; and I employed the Children this Time Two Years, or the Beginning of May.

What Wages did they earn?
They had what they earned; they worked by the Piece. I think one Week they earned 1*s.* 4*d.*, and after that I think they earned a little more.

Do you know whether any thing was taken off the Pay of Widow Cotton in consequence of her Children earning that?
I was Overseer at the Time, and attended on different Weeks when the Relieving Officer came to pay. 1*s.* 6*d.* was taken off; there was 1*s.* allowed.

Mr. S. Leek.

Was that 1*s.* 6*d.* more than the Children had earned during the Winter?
They earned 1*s.* 4*d.*, and 1*s.* 6*d.* was taken off.

Do you know a Man of the Name of Jarratt, the Relieving Officer of the Plomesgate Union?
Yes, I know him very well.

Did he say any thing about any of the Labourers having sold any of their Furniture to keep out of the Poorhouse?
I was in the Room when the Conversation took place. Some Person made a Remark, that he thought there were not so many hard Cases as had been represented. Jarratt stated, that he knew a great many hard Cases, and that he knew Persons who had been selling their Furniture in small Lots, rather than go to the House.

Did you know William Wix?
I did not know much about him; I knew the Lad.

He is dead?
Yes.

What was believed in your Neighbourhood to be the Cause of his Death?
I cannot speak to that.

Do you know any thing about the Cause of his Death?
No.

What have you heard any Persons whom you can name say was the Cause of his Death?
I have only heard his Brother talk about him.

What did his Brother say about it?
I really did not pay much Attention to it.

You were the Assistant Overseer?
I was Assistant Overseer for Seven Years.

Do you think there are as many People out of work in the Winter as there were before?
We do not have so many in Wickham Market; there have been some in other Parishes.

How many People used to be out of work in the Winter?
Sometimes Eight or Ten or Fifteen.

How many were there last Winter?
I did not pay so much Attention to it last Year, but there were not so many; there were several large Families. There was a Man of the Name of Kent, who was not an able-bodied Man, who could get no Allowance but the House; they gave him an Order one Day, and took it away at Night. He had a Child died. I spoke to the Relieving Officer to give him something. We made a Subscription to pay for a Coffin for the Child, and I gave to that.

How many Children has the Widow Cotton?
There are Two living with her.

What Allowance had she at the Time the Reduction was made, on account of the Work given to her Children?
Two Stone of Flour and 1*s.* 6*d.* a Week.

How do you know that?
I was Overseer, and used to go up to the Board generally with the Relieving Officer when he paid the Men.

What do that Class of Persons generally live upon in your Neighbourhood?
The Farmers sell the skimmed Milk, after they have taken the Cream off, and they get perhaps Three or Four Pints for 1*d.*; they scald it, and pour it on to the Bread for the Children to eat, and I have seen the Labourers eating it themselves.

Do the Labourers in general eat Meat?
Very little. I have heard our Butcher say he does not sell a labouring Man a Pound of Meat for a Month together.

Generally

Generally speaking, how do the Labourers subsist?
On Bread and Cheese chiefly.

Salt Meat?
Yes; I have had some Pork for them; that is the most I have known of their having

Do they eat great Quantities of Bread?
Some eat more than others.

What do you reckon to be a fair Allowance for a Man in the Day, supposing he is working at Piece Work?
I should think they would eat a Half Quartern Loaf in the Two Meals.

That is a Pound and Three Quarters?
Yes, I believe it is.

Do you know an old Man of the Name of John Colton?
Yes.

Has he any Relief now?
I do not think he has. He was unfortunately a Tenant of mine, and he did not pay the Rent; he could not, and I was obliged to let him go out of my House.

Had he Relief when you were Assistant Overseer?
Yes.

For whom did he work?
For different People. He is an old Man, Seventy Years of Age. He is not able to do much; he did work at some Period for me, but he has never earned 6*d.* a Day, as a Carpenter. When he wanted a Hammer he would take up a Pair of Nippers; he could not see well. I let him a House belonging to my Mother-in-law; he has not paid a Half Year's Rent for a Year and a Half.

What Family have they?
There are Four Children, fatherless and motherless, living with them, and their Allowance was put down altogether.

What was allowed him for himself and Wife?
According to what he earned. I have known him work for several Persons; and as he was an old Man, and not able to do much, we have made it up.

What has he got under the new Poor Law?
He has had nothing for some Time. He had the House offered him.

Could he earn enough to keep himself and his Family in the State of Health he is in?
I do not think he could. Sometimes he might; some Persons would give him more than he could earn, and some would not.

Do you think it would be wise to force him into the Workhouse so that the Man could earn nothing?
I should think not; I should think an Order for a small Allowance, and letting him earn what he can, is the best.

Is he in bad Health?
His Wife shakes a great deal in her Hands, and she is not able to do anything.

Do you know a Man of the Name of William Forrester?
I do; he was a Tenant of mine. He went into the House. I was obliged to give him a little Furniture. He had an Arrear of Rent. He has been under me Ten Years, being always sickly, and having Four or Five Children.

What does he earn?
He was in the Workhouse, and was sent down to me, to know whether I would employ him, and whether I would give him 1*s.* a Day; and he came out, and he soon after became ill, and they allowed him Half a Crown and Two Stone of Flour.

Mr. S. Leek.

Did they send the Doctor to him?
He has Mr. Muriel, who attends the Union. There was a Subscription for him, and they asked the Butcher whether he would contribute something; he said, "No; I shall give him a few Breasts of Mutton. I used to sell them, but cannot now."

You understood him to say he sells less Meat now than he did before the Law was altered?
I have heard him say so repeatedly.

You say there are less People now out of Work than used to be under the old Poor Law?
Yes.

What used the People out of Work at that Time to do?
Sometimes they would get Two or Three Days Work in the Week; then we made it up for them.

Now they get Work for the whole of the Week?
Yes; those Two or Three that do not get Work make out as they can. This Man of the Name of Kent is able, but he cannot work; he is so slow he cannot make much of it, and there are very few Gentlemen Farmers will employ him.

What used you to do with those Persons who could not make it out before the new Poor Law?
We used to allow them some Flour. Sometimes I got them Work myself, and then I bargained with the Man that he should give me so much for the Labour; then I knew what they did earn.

You were Assistant Overseer before the passing of the new Law?
Yes, Seven Years.

What Allowance did you make to those who were able to work, but could not get it?
I made it up frequently to them, if they were good Men, who would earn what they could; if it was a bad Man, who would not work, I made it 2*s.* or 3*s.* less.

You paid them how much?
I made it up 9*s.* or 10*s.* a Week, according to their Families.

Do you think you made it up to them more than they can get from the Farmers now?
I know there are some that make the same, and some not.

You made it up to 8*s.* or 9*s.* a Week?
Some of them 9*s.* or 10*s.*

Are the average Wages about that now?
The Average now, I should think, is about 9*s.*

There is no great Difference in the Sum you used to make it up to them and the Wages they now earn of the Farmer?
No.

Could they not then be so much better Customers to the Butchers?
That would almost depend upon their Families.

You say you make it up to them according to their Families?
Yes.

Did you ever give more to their Families than 8*s.* or 9*s.* a Week?
No; but sometimes the Children would earn something.

Did you not allow them so much a Head?
No; we never went on a Scale, but on the Saturday Night paid them according to their Industry.

A Man with his Wife and Three or Four Children you gave 9*s.* or 10*s.* a Week to?
Never, unless they had Four Children.

What would you give to a single Man?
I do not think we had a single Man.

What for a Man and his Wife?
5s.

What Wages would he get?
That would depend upon the Farmer who employed him; some would give him as much as a married Man, and another would not give him more than 8*d.* a Day, and turn off a Man who had a Family.

Do you know a Farmer in your Parish now who is giving a Man 8*d.* a Day?
No; for we have some public Works going on, the Union Workhouse, and a Bridge, and so on. I had Three or Four Men at work, and I told them that Two of them might go and get Work at the Millwright's.

Is there a greater Demand for Labour now than when the new Poor Law Bill came into operation in consequence of the building the new Workhouses?
The Bricklayers and Carpenters have been employed.

Any Description of Hands that can turn their Hands to Work as Labourers for the Farmers can assist the Bricklayers?
Yes.

Do you not think that the Increase of the Demand for Labour is very much occasioned by the building of those Workhouses?
Yes.

And the Railroads?
We have had a very few go away that are working upon the Railroads.

How many Agricultural Labourers are employed in building the new Workhouse?
Perhaps Ten or a Dozen.

Do they all come from your Parish?
No, not all of them; some from the adjoining Parishes.

How many belong to your Parish?
I cannot say how many belong to my Parish; but I can take upon me to say that we have not many out of Work just now.

Is the Number of Labourers now employed belonging to your Parish in building the Workhouse sufficient to account for the Difference?
I cannot speak to that.

Are the Labourers better conducted than they were, or otherwise?
There are a good many have been reformed; I do not think we have a bad Labourer in the Parish.

You think they have been reformed since the new Poor Law came in?
No; I cannot speak to that. We have had some Ranters and Methodist Meetings our Way, and I think that has done more Good than any thing else.

In point of fact, whether it comes from the Ranters or Methodist Meetings, or whatever it may be, they are better conducted than they were?
I think so. I think we have as good Labourers in our Parish as in any Part of the County.

Are the Labourers better conducted and more willing to do Work than they were formerly?
I cannot say that they are more willing; I do not see much Difference in that.

Are they more civil and well-conducted than they were?
I think they are more glad to get Work.

They are in point of fact glad to work, and are therefore civil to you?
They behave more civil to us; there are always bad ones.

Are they generally more civil in their Manner and better conducted than they were before the new Poor Law came in?
I should say perhaps they are.

Mr. S. Leek.

Do you attribute the Improvement to the Ranters or to the new Poor Law?
I do not think it is the new Poor Law.

Do you think they are more eager to get Work than they used to be?
Yes; I think they exert themselves more to get Work; they will go a Distance off to procure it.

Do you believe that Agricultural Work has increased?
It has increased in different Farms. I know there are a great many Farmers that ought to take a small Farm that take a large one. I always see that they do not employ so many Labourers as those who have got Money to pay the Men.

Taking large and small Farms together, has not Agricultural Labour increased?
I think it has in large Farms.

The generality of Farms round you are all large?
Yes; and those who have most Capital employ more Labourers in proportion to the small Farmers.

Are you an Agriculturist?
No, I am not.

Are you able to judge whether the Land is better cultivated and kept cleaner than it was?
No, I cannot speak to that.

Do you know what the Character of those Men to whom you used to pay this Allowance was?
There were some Individuals not of so good a Character as the rest; I do not know any great Harm of them, but perhaps they were lazy.

They did not care so much about getting Work?
No.

You have not now often bad Labourers in the Parish?
They were not bad Labourers, but perhaps not so active, nor so civil perhaps; and on that account they were more troublesome. There was one in particular.

Where are those Men now?
They are in Wickham Market.

Has that Man you refer to become more civil?
Yes.

The Farmers have been more willing to employ him?
He is in employ by the Farmers; he is jobbing about. I should not mind giving him a Job now myself, on that account.

Have you many Beerhouses in Wickham Market?
Two or Three.

Are there as many as there were?
There are more Beerhouses now than there were.

Who frequent those Beerhouses?
I never went into one of the Beerhouses in Wickham Market. I am a Constable, but never have been sent for to any one of them.

Do not you know who are the Sort of People who frequent those Houses?
No; I never went into one of them in my Life.

You never heard Remarks in your Neighbourhood that the Beerhouses are more noisy or troublesome, or less so?
No. We had one Beerhouse last Year that was obliged to pay for keeping its Company after the Hours.

Do you know whether the Poor with large Families are better off or worse off than they were before the new Poor Law was introduced?
I believe they are worse off.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Mr. A. Barnett.

Mr. ABSALOM BARNETT is called in, and examined as follows:

You are the Governor of Nottingham Workhouse?
Yes.

How long have you been Governor of Nottingham Workhouse?
Two Years the 8th of January last.

Do you know of any Persons of the Names of John and Mary Howes having been in your Workhouse?
No. There has been no such Person during my Period, nor long before that.

Have you looked over the Books?
I have. I have brought here the Books of my own Time, and all the Books relating to the previous Period; and here are the Indices.

Have you found the Names of Mary and John Howes?
There has been no Person of that Name for the last Twenty-five or Twenty-six Years, except, Fifteen Years ago, a Woman who assumed that Name, which appeared afterwards to be a fictitious Name.

What was the Date of that Woman's being in the House?
It would be Fifteen Years back.

How far do those Books which you have go back?
To October 1833.

You are quite sure that since October 1833 no Persons of the Names of Mary and John Howes have been in the Workhouse?
I am quite certain of that.

Have you ever said at any Time, that though there had been no Persons of the Names of Mary and John Howes in the Workhouse, you thought you knew to whom a certain Speech made by Mr. Bull at Bradford referred?
Never.

To nobody?
No. I have bestowed a vast deal of Pains, supposing there might be some Individual to whom he referred in that Speech; and I also undertook a Journey into Derbyshire, to Chesterfield particularly, for the Purpose of examining a Woman who I thought might throw some Light upon it; but I was altogether wrong in my Conjecture, and I have not the slightest Idea who is the Person referred to; nor was I able to gain any thing from the Interview that I had with the Woman at Chesterfield.

You have never said that you had some Idea who the Person was, and alluded to several Traits in the Person's Character who you thought it was?
I think I have no Recollection of making such an Observation. I have said often in the Hearing of One or Two of the Guardians that I could not conceive of any Individual, except a Woman of the Name of Bradley, who could be at all capable of that Kind of Statement, and much of which would be altogether inapplicable to her Case; but when I heard of this Committee being appointed I undertook a Journey to Chesterfield to ascertain whether it was this Woman, but she had never been out of Chesterfield Workhouse, therefore it is impossible.

From what Period had she never been out of Chesterfield Workhouse?
From the Time she was removed to Chesterfield, which was Eight Months ago, probably. This Case is represented as taking place considerably earlier. The Case is altogether fictitious; but there appeared to be an imperfect Description of the House; the Woman I referred to possesses a good deal of Tact of Description; it occurred to me that she might have been made the Instrument of getting up that Story, but I am quite satisfied she was not.

Was there any Maltreatment that she complained of?
No.

Was she in the Workhouse a considerable Time?
Three Months probably; between Two and Three Months.

Mr. A. Barnett.

Had she any Children with her?
Two Children.

Was she separated from her Two Children?
They were in the Nursery, but she saw them daily; several Times a Day.

Had she a Husband?
Separated from her; living somewhere about the Country.

Not in the House?
Oh no.

Had she been in the Workhouse more than once?
Never in that Workhouse before; she belonged to Chesterfield.

You removed her to Chesterfield?
We paid her Carriage down to Chesterfield; she was not removed by Order.

Why did you remove the Children from the Mother?
They were not removed, except for Care; she had Access to them every Meal, and oftener if she pleased.

Would it not have been better to have left them under her Care?
In a House with so many Persons in it there could not be an adequate Care; they would not be taken so good Care of.

Some of the Women probably were not of the very best Character?
Some of them are not of good Character; some are there with illegitimate Children.

The Conversation of those Women might have an injurious Effect on the Children?
It might. I should not wish to separate Children from their Parents, except for the Purpose of having them taken care of and educated.

Of course you have seen this Speech which was made at Bradford, and know that the Case was alluded to?
I have it in my Pocket; I had it before the Committee of the House of Commons.

Did you ever inquire at the Calvinist Chapel, Pilcher Gate, Nottingham, with respect to this Case?
There is no such Place as the Calvinist Chapel in Pilcher Gate, Nottingham; I have resided in the Place several Years.

Did you ever inquire at the School she speaks of in that Account?
I did not.

There is a School at Zion Chapel?
Yes, there is. I have inquired of some Persons who were accustomed to send their Children, and the Teachers in it, but they did not know any thing of her.

Do you know any thing of Persons of the Names of John Bulliphant and William Straw, Twist Hands in Nottingham?
I am persuaded no such Persons live in Nottingham. I have been extremely anxious to discover them, but have not been able.

Mr. Samuel Fox had something to do with the Workhouse?
At a Period considerably subsequent to the Date of that Transaction. He is a Guardian; he is one of the Society of Friends.

Did you ever ask Mr Samuel Fox about them?
Mr. Fox and I had Conversation upon the Subject, and he has written to Mr. Bull upon the Subject, but Mr. Bull has not favoured him with any Reply.

Does he recollect any thing of the Circumstance?
Certainly not.

Do you know Mr. Butler, the Master of the Grammar Scoool at Nottingham?
I do, very well.

Have

Mr. A. Barnett.

Have you had any Conversation with him?
Not upon this Case.

Have you conversed with him on other Cases?
Yes; several other Cases.

Has he ever made Inquiry of you respecting the Case of Mary and John Howes?
No.

Or with Mr. Fox, to your Knowledge?
No; I understand not.

Have you inquired at the Calvinist Chapel in Pilcher Gate?
There is no Calvinist Chapel in Pilcher Gate; they have mistaken the Methodist Chapel which there is there. There is a Calvinist Chapel in Fletcher Gate.

Have you inquired at the Calvinist Chapel at Fletcher Gate?
I have inquired of some of my Friends who are in the habit of attending there, but they knew nothing of Persons with such Name.

You do not consider perhaps that you shall be likely to hear of the Woman at Zion Chapel, where she says she was in a Sunday School, where she would be of course under another Name?
It appears to me quite impossible. The Woman describes herself as having been brought up in the Sunday School; of course she would be, as a Girl, under another Name; it would be impossible, I should think, to trace her.

She says her Husband regularly attended at the Calvinist Chapel, Pilcher Gate?
I am positive no Person of that Name has resided at Nottingham; I mean answering to that Description.

How can you possibly state that?
Because I have made very diligent Inquiry. I am remarkably acquainted with the poor Population of the Town. I have resided in the Town all my Life; I have never been out of it, and have been very extensively connected with the Poor, in connexion with Sunday Schools, for several Years, from Eighteen Years old, and have been very much connected in my Life and History always interwoven with the History of the Poor in Nottingham, and I am not at all aware of any such Name. I know Two other Families of the Name that have not the slightest Reference to this. I have been in possession of all the Rate Books, and have inquired of the Collectors, and cannot ascertain any thing respecting such Persons.

Have you ever said you had an Idea it referred to the Woman you have spoken of?
Yes; I have said so in Conversation with Mr. John Kirkland, the Proprietor of the Nottingham Newspaper.

You are quite certain from the Conversation with the Woman at Chesterfield that she is not the Person?
Yes.

What induced you to go to Chesterfield?
From seeing the Sort of Description given of the House and my own Conduct; knowing that it was not a true Account. It occurred to me there was no other Pauper we could conceive of who was at all competent to give an Account of that Sort but this Woman, who we found was very fond of writing Letters, and more ingenious than the general Class of Paupers.

At whose Suggestion did you go?
My own.

You have been concerned with the Paupers many Years, and had the Management of the old Workhouse for some Years?
Not as the Manager of the Workhouse, but as the Manager of the large Parish of St. Mary's.

Mr. A. Barnett.

You did not proceed in the same Way before the new Poor Law as you have since, did you?

The new Poor Law has not made the slightest Difference in the Management of the Poor.

In the Management of the Poorhouse?

The Alteration took place on my going into it.

What was the Alteration?

The improving of the Classification, bringing the Poor to dine together, introducing Family Worship there, and inducing them to conduct themselves in an orderly Manner.

Have you not formerly been in the habit of offering Work to those who applied to you?

That would depend on Circumstances; if any able-bodied Person came, we should offer him the House. During the severe Pressure of Winter Employment was offered to Men having large Families.

Was not it your Practice to offer them Employment instead of offering the House?

In 1819 we offered Employment to the Men.

Did you not find that Practice of offering Employment answer better than offering the House?

I should say that the Workhouse is by far the better Test.

A Test of Destitution?

I do not say Destitution, but a Test of Poverty. It is impossible that the Workhouse Test can be applied to a large Population such as is found in the Town of Nottingham.

Would it not therefore be better in such a Place as that to offer them the Test of Work, and then if they will not take the Work send them to the House of Correction?

I fear a Magistrate would have a heavy Task imposed upon him if we proceeded in that Way; I do not think we could do that, or that it would answer in Practice.

Have you not given Evidence to that Effect before the Committee of the House of Commons?

I think not.

Was there some other Gentleman from Nottingham examined?

No; it was myself.

Did you not state before the Committee of the House of Commons that you found that Mode of proceeding, offering them Work, answer better than offering them the House?

No; I have always considered offering the House as the best Mode; but in Times of great Pressure I think it desirable to offer them Work.

At what Age do you remove the Children from the immediate Charge of the Mother?

Only at the Age at which they can be safely removed.

Not under Three Years of Age?

No; unless to wean the Child; just during the short Period of weaning the Child.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Ordered, That this Committee be adjournd to Thursday next, Twelve o'Clock.

Die Jovis, 7° Junii 1838.

The Lord WHARNCLIFFE in the Chair.

Evidence on the Operation of the Poor Law Amendment Act.

J. P. Kay, M.D

JAMES PHILLIPS KAY, M.D., is called in, and examined as follows:

YOU are one of the Assistant Poor Law Commissioners?
I am.

What is your District?
Norfolk and Suffolk, with the Exception of some few Parishes that are attached to the Cambridge District.

Are there any Parishes in Cambridgeshire in your District?
Only One.

Did not you assist in forming some of the Unions in Cambridgeshire?
Not One.

Is Newmarket in your District?
It is not.

Woodbridge and Wickham Market are both in your District?
They are, both.

Have you had a good deal to do with the Recommendations to remove the Poor into Lancashire, and into the Manufacturing Counties in the North?
At the Period when the first Proceedings respecting the Organization of the Unions were in progress there was a very extensive Demand for Employment in the Northern Counties, in consequence of the Erection of new Steam Engines and the great Extension of Manufactures in that District. At that Period I was the Organ of Communication with various Boards of Guardians, and made Statements with respect to the Demand for Employment in the North; and I encouraged the Removal of suitable Families to that District, under the Superintendence of the Poor Law Commissioners, by means of an Agency which they had provided for the Purpose of ensuring Comfort to the Persons to be removed to the North, and procuring them Cottages and other Securities of a similar Nature; but I did not encourage Migration without the Assistance of this Agency.

Have you found the Migration from those Counties into Lancashire satisfactory both to the Parties to whom they were sent and to the Parties who went?
Where good Families have been selected I believe that I may state with great Confidence that the Results have been satisfactory, but I am not acquainted with particular Instances of Success or Failure. The Migration Agents, or even the Members of the Boards of Guardians, have been in contact with the individual Instances. I can state to your Lordships Committee the general Principles upon which that Migration was conducted, and the Grounds for encouraging it, but I cannot descend into minute Details as to individual Families. I believe the Instances in which the Results have not been satisfactory have occurred chiefly from a Neglect of the Commissioners Recommendations that none but suitable Families consisting of Persons of correct Habits and of established Industry should be sent to the North of England.

J. P. Kay, M.D.

Then you believe that in the Cases where it has failed it has been more from the Indiscretion of the Guardians in sending improper Persons than from any Failure of Employment in Lancashire or Yorkshire?

I believe your Lordships would find that the more intelligent Members of the Boards of Guardians themselves would state that they are themselves convinced that considerable Errors have been committed by the Overseers of the respective Parishes in the Selection of unsuitable Families, and that such Families have necessarily, as was from the very first predicated, returned to Suffolk. Of course I do not lose sight, in such Considerations, of the Amount of commercial Embarrassment that has occurred in the North, because that has affected, to a considerable Extent, the Success of certain of those Families; but I think that one of the chief Reasons of the Return of Families has been the defective Selection of the Families sent to the North of England.

But you do not know, of your own personal Knowledge, of many Families having returned to the Places of their original Abode?

I believe in the Plomesgate Union more Families have returned than to any other Union in the County.

Had you any Communication with them upon the Subject of the Persons being proper or improper Persons who were sent?

I do not think that I had any other Communication with the Guardians of that Union than a general Description of the Kind of Family which was most likely to be successful, and general Admonitions that nobody could hope to succeed in the North unless they had Habits of Industry, and were correct in their moral Conduct; that they would certainly be disappointed if they were deficient in any of those Elements of Character. I likewise communicated the Forms which were to be used, and gave general Information of the same Nature.

You are yourself very well acquainted with Manufactures in that Part of the Country?

I am.

Did you think it necessary to direct the Guardians to explain to the Paupers who might be inclined to migrate to Lancashire or Yorkshire the Nature of the Employment in which they themselves, or their Children, would be employed?

The best Guarantee for that Explanation is the Character of the Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of the Unions to whom the Administration of the Law is intrusted, and who are Men of such high Character that I am quite certain it is impossible they could deceive any poor Person as to the Nature of the Employment they would have. In the Woodbridge Union the first Act of the Union was to send a Man of the Name of Day, as Ambassador, to the North; and before that Labourer went there was no Disposition on the Part of the Poor in that Union to seek Employment in the North. But I have in my Possession a Letter from Mr. Shawe, stating that the Anxiety on the Part of the Labourers to go to the North arose from the Reports that Day brought home after he returned, having visited several Parts of the Manufacturing Districts.

Day was a Man selected by the Labourers themselves, was he not?

I believe he might be; but as I was at that Time at a Distance from the Union I do not know whether I can speak positively upon that Point.

Have you known that take place in other Unions?

In the Cosford Union the Course taken was, the Guardians sent a Labourer with Two Gentlemen, Messrs. Ansell and Kersey, Two Guardians of the Parish of Hadleigh; and that Labourer accompanied those Two Gentlemen in the Excursion over a large Portion of the Manufacturing District, and the Cause of the Migration in the Cosford Union was the Account received from that Labourer and from the Two Gentlemen who accompanied him. I may also tell your Lordships that all the earlier Accounts received from the Migrants by their Families were of the most satisfactory Kind; and I have in my Possession (and I am aware that Mr. Muggeridge has a much larger Number) Letters of Migrants to their Families, describing in strong Terms their

Satisfaction

Satisfaction with their Employment, their Masters, their Wages, and their entire Condition, which Letters I can, if you please, present to your Lordships.

You are aware that it must be a great Change in the Habits of the Labourer to be obliged to work in a Factory; may it not have a considerable Effect upon his Health?

There are Two Circumstances respecting the Question which is now put to me, which are deserving of Attention. In the first place, the Fathers and Mothers were not employed in the Mills, because they were of an Age at which it was impossible for them to acquire that peculiar manual Skill which is necessary for Success in a Manufactory. The Children were employed in the Factory, and the Father was commonly employed as an Out-door Labourer, or as a Wheelwright or Carpenter, or in some other Way out of Doors. The Second Subject to which I should wish to draw your Lordships Attention is this, that the Places chosen (and my Report to the Poor Law Commissioners most strongly recommended that) were not Manufactories in the large Towns, but in small Towns and rural Districts, where, of course, the Change, in, I think, the very Words of my Report to the agricultural Labourers, would be considerably less than if they were sent to large Towns, and at once immersed in a City Population. The Object of this Arrangement was, that the Change should be accomplished with as little Alteration in the Habits of the Labourers as possible.

Were the Adults employed in Agricultural Labour?

Yes; or the common Handicrafts.

Is there not a great deal of that Work in the Manufacturing Districts?

There is in making Embankments, and a good deal of Work upon little Farms and Garden Work.

And in pitching Coals?

Yes; and in point of fact Employment very similar to that which the Labourers are accustomed to in their own Country.

But in Suffolk the Children and the Women go usually to work in the Fields; do they not?

At that Time I can assure your Lordships that there was comparatively very little Employment for the Women and Children in the Fields. Dibbling and Employments of that Kind were not much practised, and the Extent of Employment for Women and Children has most wonderfully increased since the Poor Law came into operation.

How can the Poor Law have had that Effect?

It has had that Effect by rendering it necessary that the Children should be so employed in order to adjust the Wages to the Wants of the Family. The Expedient adopted by all the Employers of Labourers in getting rid of the Allowance in aid of Wages consists in affording such Employment to the Women and Children, especially in large Families. The Workhouse acts as a Protection to a Man with a large Family, because the Farmer will give him the Means of supporting his Family by employing the Wife and Children in the Fields; and Persons riding through the Country must observe how very much more Dibbling and Field Labour is performed by the Women and Children than was performed before the Introduction of the Law.

Would it not have the same Effect in obliging the Farmers to employ the Families, if they were obliged to maintain those Families out of Doors as well as in Doors?

It would not; and for this Reason: the Cost of maintaining a Family in the Workhouse is much greater than out of the Workhouse; if an Allowance be given to a Family out of the Workhouse, that Allowance never does amount to so much as the Cost of maintaining them in the Workhouse, and the Benefit derived is, that the Money in the one Case is expended without any Return being received, and in the other Case it is expended for productive Labour.

Then it is a great Advantage to increase the Expenses of the Workhouse as much as possible?

I do not conceive that it would be desirable to increase the Expenses of the Workhouse more than is necessary to obtain that Result, because that

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would be an Injustice to the Rate-payers, and an Injustice either to the Rate-payers or to the Poor would be injurious to Society.

Do you suppose that the Labourers who have migrated from your District into Lancashire and Yorkshire, and their Wives, have in general perfectly understood the Sort of Work they were to be employed upon?

I have not the slightest Doubt that they did, because I have had the good Fortune in every Union to be supported by the Assistance of such Gentlemen as have already been before your Lordships Committee, and to whom the Details of those Proceedings have been committed; and I cannot conceive that they could in any Case have encouraged the Migration of Labourers without either adopting such a Course as I have stated to your Lordships was adopted in the Cosford and Woodbridge Unions, or without making a full Statement to the Labourers of the Kind of Labour to which they were going.

Did you ever hear of the Case of Sophia Booth in the Woodbridge Union, who was sent into Lancashire with her Family?

I have heard the Name incidentally mentioned, and I remember at one Period having corresponded with certain Guardians of the Union with reference to a Statement affecting that Board as regarded her, which appeared in the public Prints; but I have no personal Knowledge whatever of the Case of Sophia Booth.

Do you know any thing of her Character?

I received a Letter from Mr. Shawe the other Day, informing me that she had been a Victim of the gross System which formerly prevailed from the Want of Classification in the Houses of Industry of Suffolk. When she was Eleven Years of Age she was an Inmate of Melton House of Industry, then a Workhouse of the Loes and Wilford Incorporation, and owing to the extreme Want of Classification which prevailed in those Houses a capital Crime was committed by a Man in that House upon her; she gave Evidence against him, and he was executed for the Offence; and Mr. Shawe attributes a good deal of her Misfortunes to that Circumstance occurring in her early Life.

Do you know whether she was a Woman of loose Habits?

I have not any Knowledge of that.

Then you are of opinion that she was not a proper Subject of Migration to Lancashire?

From what I have heard from the Guardians of the Woodbridge Union I have no Hesitation in stating that a more improper Family could scarcely have been sent into the North.

Would it not be as well if some other Persons besides the Guardians of the Union were consulted before the Migration of Persons took place?

I think it would be as well, if possible, that the Manufacturers themselves should be made the Agents of selecting the Individuals, and that the Responsibility should be made to devolve upon them; and I do believe that they were in such Need of Assistance at that Period that they would have consented to that Arrangement; but I must confess that I was personally by no means acquainted with the Extent to which the Industry of the Labourers of those Counties had been impaired, and the great Number of Instances that existed throughout the Country of Persons of whom Farmers were glad to get rid, on that account.

You think that that led to a Desire on the Part of Farmers to get rid of the inferior Labourers?

It was a Temptation too strong to be resisted.

That would have been checked, would it not, supposing that the Guardians had not been allowed to promote the Migration of any Person without reference to yourself?

It was required that there should be a Certificate signed, not merely by the Guardians of the Parish, but by the Minister of the Parish, and other respectable Individuals, before any Engagement of that Kind was entered into; and in all such Cases the Certificates were so signed. That was conceived

conceived to be a sufficient Security; at the same Time, Facts have proved that it was not; but I do not know that it could have been anticipated that such a Security would have been found insufficient.

Then, in point of fact, no reference has been made to you on the Subject?
Certainly not, as respects the Selection of individual Families.

You did not know whether any Individuals that might be named migrated or not?
I did not know, (being very much occupied in Norfolk with Duties of the most urgent Character, and Correspondence that it was extremely difficult to keep pace with,) until some Time had elapsed, the Extent to which Migration had proceeded; and in point of fact it did proceed to that Extent chiefly in consequence of the Reports made by Labourers in Lancashire in Letters to their Friends, and of the Proceedings of the Boards of Guardians grounded on those Reports as confirmatory of the general Statements previously made.

Are you aware how far the Guardians or Relieving Officers interfered, by Persuasion, with the Persons whom they wished to get rid of?
I believe that Persuasion was employed; and I think it is to be justified, by these Considerations: Suffolk was not long ago, to a very considerable Extent, a Manufacturing County, and all the Towns, particularly on the Borders of Essex, were the Seats of Woollen and Stuff Manufactures. A great Number of the Villages throughout the County contained Hand-loom Weavers and Spinners upon the Wheel, and by small Machines, throughout almost the entire Surface of the County of Suffolk. Lancashire and Yorkshire have proved a Sort of Vortex, into which the Manufactures of the District have been drawn by the Introduction of Steam Engines; and consequently those domestic Manufactures of the more agricultural Counties have been, to a very large Extent, extinguished. It was therefore very natural that the Inhabitants of those Counties should desire to remove a most evident surplus Population, occasioned by those Circumstances, and by the Operation of the Poor Law, to that Part of the Country to which their Trade had itself gone.

That is what you suppose to have been the Motive that has induced the Guardians and the Relieving Officers to use this Persuasion?
I have no Doubt that that Motive was in the Minds of the more intelligent Guardians, and that that Motive descended to the inferior Officers of the Board. I believe they had an honest Conviction that they were bettering the Condition of the Migrants: the best Proof of that is the large Sums they expended upon the Outfit of Families, which is detailed in Mr. Muggeridge's Third Report.

Are you of opinion that it is desirable to use Persuasion for that Purpose, or to leave it entirely to the Expression of a Wish upon the Part of the Person who is to migrate?
I do not think that any undue Persuasion was employed; but it must be remembered, that the whole of these Proceedings took place at a Period when the rest of the Proceedings under the Poor Law were in progress, and they are to be regarded as simply Accessories to those Proceedings. One of the natural Effects of the Poor Law was, where there was a surplus Population, to create a Desire on the Part of the Labourers to seek Employment elsewhere, and which Desire had not been known to exist in Suffolk previous to that Period. In consequence of that considerable Emigration has taken place from certain Portions of the Counties of Suffolk and Norfolk, and also considerable Migration. I do not think the Migration is more to be attributed to the Persuasion of the Guardians than it is to the Desire of the Labourers, grounded on the Reports received from their Friends in Lancashire, and the Reports of the various Boards of Guardians.

Are you aware of any Instances in which such Means have been used, by stating to the Paupers, "If you do not migrate we will stop your Allowance, and you and all your Family shall go into the Workhouse"?
I can conceive how such Misapprehensions arose. At that Period the Offer of the Workhouse was made to certain Parties, by successive Steps; first to single Men, then to Men with a certain Number of Children, and then to Men

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with large Families; and so, by successive Steps, different Strata, if I may use the Term, of Paupers came within the Operation of the Law. Now, at the Period when such an Offer was made to another Class of Paupers, it would appear to the Labourer that it was made with a view to induce him to migrate, but it was not made with any such Intent. The Offer of Employment in Lancashire was a simple Accessory to Relief in the Workhouse, but the Offer of Relief in the Workhouse was not employed as a Means of inducing him to migrate, rather the Offer to migrate was made as a Means of enabling him to maintain his Family in Comfort.

Supposing that a Relieving Officer or a Guardian should have said to a Pauper, "If you do not migrate into Lancashire your Allowance shall be stopped, and you and all your Family shall be taken into the Workhouse;" would you hold that to be a proper Proceeding?

I should think that an Act of Indiscretion.

Do not you think it very natural for a Relieving Overseer or a Guardian to say to a Pauper, "Your Pay will be stopped, but you will be much better off if you go to Lancashire"?

I believe that is the Form in which the Statement would be made; and that might be interpreted into a Threat, owing to a Misunderstanding.

As it is likely to lead a poor Person so to interpret it, is it a proper Thing to say?

It is very difficult to communicate with the poorer Classes, in their present State of Ignorance, without being misunderstood; and I must say that I do not think that those who support the Poor Law are those who have very frequently made Communications that are likely to be misunderstood.

Do you think that the poor People would have gone into Lancashire but from a Terror of the Workhouse?

I do not think that either Migration or Emigration would have occurred to a very considerable Extent in Norfolk or Suffolk if it had not been for the Change in the Law. I believe that if the Out-door Allowances had been continued to those Families as they were given before, Migration and Emigration would not have occurred.

Do not you think that it was the Dread of the Workhouse that drove them to the North?

I do not think that it would be proper for me to say in distinct Terms that the Dread of the Workhouse drove them to Lancashire.

Do you think it is proper that any thing like a Threat should be held out to the Labourers, that if they do not migrate they should be taken into the Workhouse?

I do not think that proper; but, in reference to the Course that has been pursued by the Boards of Guardians, they would have acted as they have if there had been no Means of making an Offer of Migration or of emigrating to any Individuals; it would have been still their Duty to carry the Law into execution, and any Embarrassments in so carrying the Law into execution would have been multiplied Ten-fold if they could not have given the Poor the Means of migrating or emigrating.

Would it not have been hard upon the Guardians to impose upon them the Necessity of acting upon a stringent Law, without allowing them to make such Suggestions to the Parties who were to be the Subjects of that stringent Enactment as would have enabled them to avoid those unpleasant Consequences?

I most distinctly agree with the Principle which is proposed to me in the Question; and it appears to me to be quite as reasonable to propose that an Individual shall go into Lancashire as to the next County or to the Railroad, and the Offer has always been made as a Means of escaping from any Difficulties which might be occasioned by carrying the Law into execution.

But still, to your Knowledge, no such Proceeding has ever taken place, as holding out the Threat of the Workhouse in order to induce Migration?

To my Knowledge no such Proceeding has taken place.

If such a Proceeding had taken place, would you have called upon the Guardians to explain that Circumstance?

If the Workhouse had been employed distinctly with a view of inducing in any particular Instance a Family to go into Lancashire, when that Family would otherwise not have been offered the Workhouse, and the Guardians had gone out of their Course to make the Offer for that Purpose, I should have felt it my Duty to interfere.

Or if the Relieving Officer had done so?

Yes.

May not the Urgency with which those Suggestions appear in some Instances to have been made have resulted from a Conviction on the Minds of those who made them that it was the fair and most legitimate Course to pursue, having in view simply the Interest of the Parties, and not the parochial Expenditure?

Certainly; and I believe the Impressions received by the Chairmen of Unions, from the Letters addressed by Migrants to their Friends, and from the Answers and Reports made by the Deputations who went into Lancashire, were that almost unalloyed Benefit would be derived, not merely as respected the Income of the Families, but as respected their Comforts and social Position in every respect, by their procuring Offers of Employment in Lancashire; and wherever there has been more than an usual Degree of Urgency in the Means employed to persuade Families, I believe that has resulted solely from the Conviction entertained by the Chairman and Guardians that they were proposing that which was most beneficial to the Individuals to whom they proposed it.

Do not you think it would be liable to the Suspicion, on the Part of the Paupers, that one of the Motives of the Guardians was to get rid of the Burden on their Parish?

One of the Motives most certainly was that those Persons should cease to be burdensome to the Parish; but the Means taken for the Cessation of that Burden was certainly such as in the Minds of the Guardians reconciled itself altogether with the greatest attainable Advantage for those Families; and the Outfit provided, I think, must be regarded as a Proof that the pecuniary Advantage derived from the Change was not the sole Advantage which presented itself to the Minds of those who made the Offer.

Do not you think that it is very desirable that the Paupers should not be so spoken to upon the Subject of migrating as to induce them to entertain such a Suspicion?

I must say that I think considerable Misapprehension exists upon this Subject. If I may be permitted to refer to my Papers, I can present your Lordships with a Letter. I remember receiving a Letter from Mr. Shawe on the Return of Day from Lancashire, stating that his Doors were besieged with Applications for Migrants. This is the Letter: "The Ambassador Day has returned with a most wonderful Description of what he has seen in Lancashire, and the Difficulty now is to prevent all Suffolk from migrating Northwards. My House has been besieged from Day's Report partly, and partly from Mr. Muggeridge having obtained Two very advantageous Contracts for Men from Ropton and Otley. I have now furnished him with the Names of Four more Families, fine Specimens of Suffolk Workmanship, and the Heads of the Families are Men of excellent Character. In fact I have (arbitrarily) put a Veto upon any others being sent at present."

If there were so many Families of the Description mentioned in that Letter anxious to migrate, there was still less Reason for inducing the Migration of others less fit by the Dread of the Workhouse?

I must say that I doubt whether the Proceedings of the Boards have assumed the Complexion that is assumed in the Question.

Then you do not think that any such Proceeding has occurred?

I do not think that it has occurred, except in individual Instances of Indiscretion, which it is impossible to prevent.

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And not amounting to any thing that could be construed into a Threat?
It is impossible for me to assure your Lordships that such a Thing has not occurred, but my Belief is that the Tenor of the Proceeding has been such as I have described.

But if there had been any thing in the Nature of a Threat you think it would have been your Duty to check that Proceeding?
Certainly; if there had been a Threat held out to induce a Family to migrate, by adopting Proceedings which would have been a Departure from the Course which the Board of Guardians would otherwise have adopted to the Family, I do not think that could have been justified.

Do you mean to say that all the Adults that have gone to Lancashire have been employed in Agricultural Employment?
I cannot assure your Lordships that all have been so employed; but it would be extremely difficult, if not impossible, to induce a Manufacturer to receive into his Manufactory an Adult, because it would be impossible to teach him the peculiar Processes of the Manufacture; and if any have been employed in the Mills it has been in feeding the Furnaces, or some such Work as that.

That would be as unwholesome a Labour as Employment in the Mills?
I believe it would not; and it certainly would be much more unwholesome for a Man to be employed in a Mine (where Multitudes are employed throughout the Kingdom, and in which there are certain Persons employed in the Agricultural Districts); and I think it would be more unwholesome to be employed in the Fens of Lincolnshire and of Suffolk than in feeding the Furnaces of those Mills.

According to this Letter, which you have now read, there were a great Number of Applicants to be allowed to migrate; why then should the Board of Guardians have picked out a Woman, such as Sophia Booth appears to have been, who had no Wish to migrate, who was a Person not of good Character, and yet who, from the Circumstances in which she was placed by the Guardians or the Relieving Officer, was compelled to migrate?
I have no Knowledge of the Circumstances which are related in the Question whatsoever; but if the Circumstances were as related I can only conceive One Motive as influencing the Persons who desired to persuade Mrs. Booth to migrate, and that was a Desire to get rid of her.

Has it not happened that many Persons have gone to the North of their own Accord, without the Intervention of the Board of Guardians at all?
It has been very difficult to restrain what I am inclined to call unauthorized Migration; and the utmost Efforts have been made by Members of the Boards of Guardians to prevent that occurring, because they felt that there was no Guarantee for the Success of the Migrants, unless they were well selected, unless Contracts were procured for them with respectable Mill Owners in rural Districts; all which Circumstances seemed to be essential, besides providing them with an Outfit.

How can you account then for the Board of Guardians using those Means of inducing the People to migrate?
I have endeavoured, in the particular Case that has been mentioned, to account for it by the Existence of a strong Desire to get rid of the Individual; and I imagine that a similar Desire may have existed in other Cases.

That has been the Case under the former Law, has it not? The Overseers were not unfrequently desirous of getting rid of an objectionable Character?
Certainly. And under the former Law, I think, a System prevailed, which your Lordships will at once perceive was fraught with the most pernicious Consequences to the Labourers eventually; viz. that, instead of procuring the Migration of Individuals to Lancashire, Speculators were encouraged to establish (in rural Districts that were overburdened with Population) Manufactories, the Ruin of which was ultimately inevitable; and the Consequence of which Ruin would be the extreme Misery and Privation of the Parties who had been so

employed as a Parochial Speculation. And it was very much with a view of avoiding such Difficulties that the Poor Law Commissioners were desirous to promote the Migration of the surplus Population to the proper Fields of Employment.

Suppose there should have been those unwise Proceedings under the former Law, that would be no Excuse for any unwise Proceedings under the new Law?

I cannot conceive that any thing in the Commissioners Regulations respecting Migration, and particularly the Request that the Clergymen of the Parish should sign the Certificate of Character, could be regarded, as far as they are concerned, as the slightest Encouragement to sending improper Persons into Lancashire.

Those Parties might imitate the Malpractices of former Times without being in the least countenanced by the new Poor Law?

Certainly.

And you would have objected to that Proceeding if you had been aware of it?

My Report states, that Migration should be offered as a Boon to the Labourers in the South; that none but Labourers who deserved to be emancipated from the Evils of the former System of Administration of the Poor Law, by persevering Industry and good Conduct in their Parishes, would be fit Labourers for Migration; and that if it were offered to any other Persons not merely would the Disappointment of the Labourers Expectations, but also the Embarrassment of the Parochial Authorities, be a necessary Consequence.

From your Knowledge of the Manufacturing Districts have you any Doubt that poor Families of good Conduct and good Morals would have found great Benefit from Migration?

I have no Hesitation in saying that whenever your Lordships are pleased to examine Mr. Muggeridge, or any of the Migration Agents, they will afford you satisfactory Evidence of that being the Case.

Do you know that Persons of bad Character have been refused by the Board, and that they have therefore gone of their own Accord?

I am aware that Persons of bad Character have been refused frequently; but I cannot charge my Memory of Instances in which those Persons have proceeded to Lancashire on their own Speculation notwithstanding the Refusal of the Board of Guardians to assist them.

What have been the Objections to their Characters?

I think that if the Men had merely poached, or committed some rural Offence of that Description, it would not have been taken to be an Offence which should deprive them of the Chance of bettering themselves in Lancashire; that if the Board knew him to be a turbulent disorderly Man, of idle Habits, and intemperate Habits, that would have determined the Guardians to refuse to assist him in that Way.

Would they have objected to a Woman on account of a Want of Chastity?

I believe that if a Woman had brought up her Family ill, so as to render the Girls dissolute and idle, as the Contract would depend very much upon the Fitness of the Children for Migration, the Character of the Woman would have been taken into account as affecting the Habits of the Family.

They would have objected to Girls of dissolute Habits?

Assuredly they would.

Women with Bastard Children would they have rejected?

I can believe that a Woman having had a Bastard Child may afterwards conduct herself discreetly. If she had more than One Bastard Child I think that would have been Evidence of incorrect Habits, and of such Disorder in the Household as must have affected the Girls in the Family, and have rendered them unfit Subjects for Migration.

Are you much acquainted with the Factories?

Yes.

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Are the Women remarkable for Chastity?

I believe in the Factories out of the Towns they are as remarkable for Chastity as Women in the rural Districts. In the Factories in the rural Districts of Lancashire and Yorkshire I believe the Women are as chaste as in the South.

Are they more unchaste in the Manufacturing Towns than in the other large Towns in the Kingdom?

I believe that is a Subject upon which it would be difficult to obtain Evidence.

At any rate it admits of Doubt?

I do doubt the Existence of any great Difference between the moral Character of the Females in large Manufacturing Towns, and in other Towns which are not so large, which are not manufacturing.

Comparing the large Manufacturing Towns with the smaller Country Towns, do you apprehend that the Morals of the Women are as good in the Manufacturing Towns as in the smaller Towns?

I believe in the small Towns in the Agricultural Districts there is more Chastity in the Women than in the large Towns; but I attribute that to all the Causes which impair the moral Character of the Population of Cities, as compared with the moral Character of the Population of smaller Towns and rural Districts.

Did not the Uncertainty of securing Employment to the Head of the Family very soon operate as a Check upon the Disposition of the Labourers to migrate?

I believe that it was always found more difficult during the Winter Season, on that Account, to secure an Engagement for Families than during the Summer Season; but the Demand for Labour was so great that Manufacturers were willing to put themselves to considerable Inconvenience to provide Labour for the Heads of Families, rather than be deprived of the Services of the Children.

Did not they almost in every Instance refuse to secure Employment to the Heads of Families?

On the contrary, I believe in almost every Instance, though of that I cannot assure your Lordships, there was an Engagement made for the Heads of Families.

Did you tell those Agricultural Labourers who thought of migrating into Lancashire that they were not themselves to be employed in the Factories?

I have seldom or never had Communication with the Labourers personally, but the Nature of the Agreement would show, that for in every Instance it was necessary that a descriptive List of the Family should be sent into Lancashire. The Form, being filled up by the Guardians of the Union, was transmitted to the Agent in Lancashire, and by him submitted to the Manufacturers. When they make an Offer for a Family the whole Terms of that Offer are also made in the written Form; that is transmitted to the Guardians of the Union, and that written Form describes the Employment of each Individual of the Family, the Man, the Wife, and each Child, separately. That Form was in all Cases read to the migrating Family, and such Explanations are made as the Guardians think desirable, or as the Labourer himself may require. He on his Part signs the Contract; it is also signed by the Manufacturer. Besides this, there are many other Particulars included in the Form,—whether a Cottage can be obtained, at what Prices, at what Distance from the Mill, and whether the Manufacturer will advance any thing for the Outfit of the Family, and what Amount of Outfit will be required, and similar Particulars; all which Matters are communicated to the migrating Family, who sign the Contract after the Information is so conveyed.

Have not a great Number of those Migrants returned since?

A considerable Number have returned, particularly in the Plomesgate Union, and others have returned elsewhere. I cannot inform your Lordships what Number.

What Reason do they give for returning?
The Reasons stated by the Migrants have been various, and I am not fully informed of the individual Cases; but I think that Mr. Muggeridge would be able to satisfy your Lordships.

Do you know that they gave us a Reason, that the Labour in which they were employed injured their Health?
I am not aware that that has been assigned as the Reason.

You think a Workhouse should be made as disagreeable as possible; do you not?
I do not; and the best Answer I can give to that is, that the Workhouses of Norfolk and Suffolk (which is a practical Reply) are not as disagreeable as possible, but that they are Places where I hope the able-bodied would find it less desirable to live than in their own Cottages, self-supported on the Fruits of their Industry; but, as respects the aged and the Children, almost the opposite of what is supposed in the Question is the Fact, as respects the actual Regulation and Discipline of the Workhouses.

You wish them to be looked to as Asylums for the aged and for Children, and as Terrors to the able-bodied?
I should not use the Word Terrors as regards the able-bodied, nor should I use the Word Asylums as regards the aged.

Are you a Member of the Medical Profession?
Yes.

Do not you think that long Confinement in a Workhouse for an able-bodied Man would be injurious to his Health?
I have no Facts before me which would enable me to answer the Question practically, because it is not practically the Effect of the Proceedings of the Board of Guardians that able-bodied Men should be maintained for a long Period in the Workhouse. I think the average Period of their Maintenance there would not be more than Six Weeks; but if they were longer maintained in the Workhouse, then I believe that if their Health were in any Degree affected it would be from their being supported upon quite as good or better Diet than that which they obtained in their Cottages, and without the same Amount of Labour to which they had been accustomed.

Have they any Labour in the Workhouse?
In Norfolk and Suffolk they have scarcely any.

Would it not be a good Thing to have some Land attached to the Workhouse, on which they might be employed?
My own Opinion is, that the Land which we have attached to the Workhouses is much better employed in instructing the Children in Gardening and other similar Labour, fitting them for Agricultural Pursuits, than it would be in any Employment of the able-bodied; and we do not find that the Employment of the able-bodied, from the very small Number we have in the Workhouse, is a Matter of easy Regulation.

By providing a larger Quantity of Land, might there not be a regular Supply of Labour both for those Children and for the able-bodied?
It would appear to me much more desirable that those Men should be employed upon the Farms than upon the Union Farm, and therefore I think that Course which facilitates their Employment upon the Farms is much more beneficial to the Labourers than the Employment upon any Union Farm.

Then you think it better that those Men should be kept in perfect Idleness?
I do not; nor is there, I think, any thing in my Reply which would lead your Lordships to think I believe it would be better to keep the Men in perfect Idleness; but it is difficult, seeing that there are so very few in the Workhouse, to regulate the Employment of the able-bodied.

Have not the Labourers a great Aversion to the Workhouse?
The Labourers prefer the Wages of independent Industry.

Would they not take much less Wages, rather than live in the Workhouse?
I have not a single Instance in my Recollection of that.

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Do you know what has become of those who have left the Workhouse, whether they are employed, or whether they are wandering about in a State of Distress?

The Question proposed to me is One of vital Importance, and upon which perhaps it would be desirable the fullest Information should be given to the Committee. Previous to the Establishment of the Woodbridge Union the Magistrates of that District, and the Members of the Colneis and Carlford Incorporation, addressed a Memorial to the Poor Law Commissioners, which, with your Lordships Leave, I will read:—"Gentlemen, We, the Directors and Guardians of the Poor in the incorporated Hundreds of Colneis and Carlford, in the County of Suffolk, beg to send you the inclosed Account of the Expenses of the Poor in these Hundreds under the different Heads stated in the Schedules. In the Return of the Labourers above Eighteen Years of Age the Numbers are stated who belong to and are maintained and employed by the Parish, to show the immediate Pressure upon each particular Parish, which could not be shown if the Residence alone were given. The Relief of the Poor has been heretofore managed by the Parish Vestries, the Directors under our Local Act being little else than a Court of Appeal for the Pauper against the Order of the Vestry. By the late Act the Management now falls into our Hands, and we have therefore drawn out the inclosed Statement to submit for your Consideration what Steps are necessary to be taken in the Position of the Affairs of the Poor, as set forth in the Schedules. It appears that 558 Labourers in full Health and Strength have received upwards of 2,000*l.* within the Year for no Labour given in return,—"

When was that?

November the 25th, 1834. "—and that 247 Widows and their Children have received nearly 1,700*l.* Whatever Pressure may appear from these Documents to be now upon the Land in the Shape of Rate, it is not the whole of that Pressure; the Farmers of some Parishes have for many Years employed more Labour upon their Land than was really wanted, rather than have the Men unemployed on the Allowance System. We cannot ascertain the Extent of Payments on this Ground; many Labourers able and willing to work cannot obtain Employment. We are of opinion that there are at this Time nearly 300 Labourers wholly unemployed within these Hundreds." They comprise, I may inform your Lordships, not One Half of the Woodbridge Union, only 10,000 Inhabitants. "It is not probable that that Number will decrease before the Spring. This Day it came under our Notice that Twenty-eight Labourers were unemployed in One Parish in Carlford, under the following Scale of Allowances; single Man 2*s.*, Man and Wife 4*s.* 3*d.*, Ditto and One Child 5*s.* 6*d.*, and so forth up to 9*s.* for a Man and his Wife and Six Children; and about the same Number from a Parish in Colneis on the same Scale. It is calculated on the Price of Flour at 2*s.* a Stone, Fourteen Pounds to the Stone. With the above Allowances the Poor were dissatisfied, and we have therefore directed that they shall be admitted into the Poorhouse." This was before the Formation of the Woodbridge Union. "Many will probably accept the Offer, not, as we believe, from any Indisposition to Work, but from Inability to provide decent Necessaries for themselves and Families. Our Poorhouse at Nacton, near Ipswich, common to the Two Hundreds, would on an Emergency contain about 300 Persons; at present we have only 135, about the average Number at this Time of the Year. At the present Prices each Individual in the House costs 2*s.* 6*d.* a Week for Maintenance and Clothing: Firing, Candles, Bedding, as well as Salaries, Insurance, Law Expenses, and Repairs, are not included in the 2*s.* 6*d.* On behalf of the special Meeting ordered to furnish this Report I beg to subscribe myself, Gentlemen, your obedient Servant, R. N. Shawe, Chairman." And I have here the original Table which was presented with that Memorial, and which shows that 980 odd able-bodied Labourers were, more or less, out of Work, and in receipt of Relief to the Extent of upwards of —— in the Course of the Year preceeding November 1834. I have a Statement since that, drawn up in June of last Year, procured from the Books of the Parishes of Colneis and Carlford Incorporation, a Statement of the Number of able-bodied Labourers, under the same Heads, who have obtained Relief in those Years; and I would beg to put in this Table as affording a Means of Comparison as to the Amount of Relief in the Year ending June last and the previous Year. In the

Year ending November 1834 the Number of able-bodied Labourers in Work occasionally relieved was 312, and they received in that Year 718*l.* 8*s.* 5½*d.*; in the Year ending June 1837 the Number of able-bodied Labourers in Work occasionally relieved was Thirteen, and they received 16*l.* 5*s.* 9¾*d.* In November 1834 the Number of able-bodied Labourers out of Work, and relieved on that Account, was 558, and they received 2,119*l.* 11*s.* 6½*d.*

For what Length of Time did they receive that?

In the Year. In the Year ending June 1837 the Number of able-bodied Labourers out of Work was Fourteen, and they received in that Year 7*l.* 18*s.* 8*d.* out of the Workhouse. The Number of able-bodied Labourers relieved by Work was Eighty in the Year ending November 1834, and the Amount of Relief 267*l.* 13*s.* 5*d.*; the able-bodied Labourers relieved by Work in the Year ending June 1837 were none, and the Relief nothing. The Number of infirm Persons wholly or partially employed in the Year ending November 1834 was 129, and they received 848*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.*; the Number of infirm Persons wholly or partially employed in the Year ending June 1837 was 100, and they received 430*l.* 15*s.* 0½*d.* The Number of infirm Persons, entirely disabled, relieved in the Year ending November 1834 was 143, who received 1,172*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.*; the Number of Persons, infirm and entirely disabled, relieved in the Year ending June 1837 was 144, and they received 1,021*l.* 2*s.* 5½*d.*; showing that the Relief had been continued to the same Number of Individuals as in the previous year, with about a similar Amount of Relief. The Number of Sick relieved in the Year ending November 1834 was 200, and they received 302*l.* 7*s.* 3¾*d.*; the Number of Sick relieved in the Year ending June 1837 was 215, and they received 421*l.* 13*s.* 11¾*d.*; or a Third more Relief was given to the sick in the latter Year than in the former. The Number of Widows, with and without Children, who were relieved in the Year ending November 1834 was 247, and they received 1,687*l.* 19*s.* 8*d.*; the Number of Widows, with or without Children, who were relieved in the Year ending June 1837 was 231, and they received 1,418*l.* 12*s.* 4½*d.*; there being very little Diminution. The Number of single Women, with and without Children, who were relieved in the Year ending November 1834 was 136, who received 407*l.* 2*s.* 5*d.*; the Number of single Women, with and without Children, who were relieved in the Year ending June 1837 was Twenty-seven, and they received 68*l.* 13*s.* 6½*d.* The Number of Persons for whom Rent or Rates were paid were Fifty-seven, in the Year ending November 1834, they received 110*l.* 17*s.* 2*d.*; the Persons for whom Rent or Rates were paid in the Year ending June 1837 were none. Besides those Classes the following Classes received Relief, and are distinguished in the Year ending June 1837,—who are not distinguished in the Table provided for the Year 1834; namely, Eight Lunatics and Idiots, who received 79*l.* 1*s.* 8¼*d.* and Fifty-three Orphan and Bastard Children and Children of Widows remarried, who received 161*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.* The Result of the Table appears to me to show that the Change which the Law has produced almost solely affects the able-bodied Class; and where there is a Reduction it is very slight indeed; or there is an Increase of Relief as respects the infirm and the sick. Then, as respects what has become of those able-bodied Labourers to which the Question referred, I am enabled to refer to the strong Assurances that I have received from the Chairman of the Union, Mr. Newton Shawe, and to the Reports which I have received from the Parishes respectively as to the Amount of Employment that has been provided in lieu of the previous Dependence upon the Poor Rate for the able-bodied.

The Question referred to those who had left the Workhouse?

If any of those have been in the Workhouse, they are now employed; and I am about to supply Proofs for Example in the Parish of Alderton: a Report is made to me from the Guardian of that Parish, Mr. Joshua Rodwell, in which he gives an Account of Twenty-two Labourers who were previously employed by the Labour Rate, who are now all employed, upon the usual Terms of the Contract between the Master and Servant, in Farming.

The Question refers to those who have gone into the Workhouse, and remained there a Fortnight or Three Weeks, and then have gone out; are you

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able to state whether those Persons have been employed, and upon what Terms?

I can state to your Lordships that I have received from Mr. Newton Shawe, the Chairman of the Union, an Account of various Parishes in the Union, conveying to me Statements of the Names of the Labourers who were accustomed to receive Parochial Relief in those Parishes, and the Circumstances in which those Labourers are now placed. The Circumstances are briefly these: that they are either in Employment in the Parish, or that they are removed to a Distance from the Parish, having been known to go to some Employment elsewhere. And I have also been furnished with a Letter from Mr. Shawe, stating—written after the Snow Storm that occurred this last Winter, when the Board of Guardians of the Woodbridge Union made no Change in their ordinary Mode of administering Relief—to the following Effect:—"Out-door Relief being withdrawn, the Farmers have more Money to apply to the Payment of Wages; they know that the Maintenance of a Man and his Family in the Workhouse costs them more than the Wages of Labour, and produces them no Return whatever; while, on the other hand, the Labourer uses every Exertion to procure Employment to avoid going to the Workhouse. Thus the Interests of both Parties combine in the One Purpose of keeping the Man and his Family out of the House; and the Result has been that more Labourers have been kept in Employment, during the last Five Weeks past, than have ever been employed before under similar Circumstances. I scarcely know an Instance, since the Formation of our Union, of a well-conducted industrious Labourer being compelled to accept the Workhouse. One such Case was reported to me last Week, and I gave the Man a Job of Work; but I find on Trial that he is not worth his Wages. I have heard Labourers themselves say that the late System of giving Out-door Relief to able-bodied Men was a great Injustice to an industrious Labourer; and they added, as their Reason for that Opinion, that it sent out a Man to work against them with a Parish Premium upon his Back, and he could afford to work for less Money than they could."

Do you know whether those Persons that have gone out of the Workhouse have got Employment, and at what Rate?

I am positively assured, and I can only give it from the positive Assurances that I receive, that there is no Lack of Employment for able-bodied Men in the Woodbridge Union.

The Question asked you assumed that a large number of Labourers had accepted the Offer of the Workhouse; do you know that to be the Case?

In contradiction of that, I must assure your Lordships that Mr. Shawe has frequently informed me, in his Letters during the Progress of the Woodbridge Union, that in the Nacton Workhouse, notwithstanding the Population in the Woodbridge Union is more than Double the Population contained in the Colneis and Carlford Incorporation, there are only from Twenty to Thirty Inmates more in the Workhouse than there were in the Colneis and Carlford Incorporation, nowithstanding the Practice of that Incorporation was to supply profuse Out-door Relief to the able-bodied Men in the Manner which I have described to your Lordships. Though there are comprised in the Union a Number of Parishes which contain Double the Population of the former Incorporation the Number of Inmates in the Workhouse has not increased more than Thirty on the Average at all Seasons of the Year; and that notwithstanding Out-door Relief has been withdrawn, as I have described to your Lordships, from 980 able-bodied Men who were previously in the Receipt of Out-door Relief in One Half of the present Union. I have also received from Mr. Shawe, and other Guardians of the Union, the most positive Assurances that Employment at sufficient Wages has been substituted in lieu of the previous Relief.

What is the Amount of the weekly Wages of an able-bodied Labourer?

The weekly Wages of an able-bodied Labourer in the Woodbridge Union are, I believe, about 9*s.* or 10*s.*; from 9*s.* to 10*s.* when at Day Work.

And for married and single equally?

On that Subject I cannot positively assure your Lordships; but I do not think that that is the proper Mode of estimating the Wages of a Labourer, because it will be found that in Districts where the annual Income of a Family differs most materially the Rate of Day Wages may be the same. In Districts where

the Prices of Piece Work differ considerably, and the Amount of Work at Piece Work given to the Head of the Family and to the Wife and Children differs exceedingly from what is given in other Districts, still the same Rate of Day Wages is maintained, and thus a great Deception prevails as to the annual Income of Families; but I presented to the Committee of the House of Commons a Table, which resulted from Investigations made over the whole of the Counties of Norfolk and Suffolk, showing what were the average annual Wages of the Labourers there, and also showing what were the Prices paid in the various Districts of Norfolk and Suffolk for various Kinds of Piece Work and Day Work; and if your Lordships desire to be possessed of as good Information as I can give, it is contained in that Table. *J. P. Kay, M. D.*

How is a Labourer, with Six or Eight Children, able to maintain that Family upon 9*s.* a Week?

I do not think that it ever occurs that a Labourer is called upon to maintain a Family of Six or Eight Children upon 9*s.* a Week; and, upon referring to the Table, it will be found, in the Case of Families containing Five and Three Quarters Children, the annual Income amounted to 45*l.* 11*s.* 9*d.*

What other Income have they, except what they get in Harvest, and their weekly Wages?

They have Income from Task Work, and they have Income from the Earnings of the Wife, Income from the Earnings of the Children, the Value of Corn gleaned, and sometimes the Rent of the House allowed.

By whom?

By the Landlord or the Farmer. Sometimes a Garden or Allotment, sometimes Fuel cut free of Charge, sometimes a Common Right, sometimes some Perquisites to enable them to keep a Pig or Donkey, and possibly other Sources of Income.

Have you not found often in your Experience that it was quite impossible to say how an Agricultural Labourer with a large Family could live upon the Wages he earned; and yet have you found by Experience, in fact, that they do live, and live very comfortably and very respectably, though if you analyzed their Income you would say that it was utterly impossible they could sustain Life?

I have endeavoured myself, notwithstanding I was perfectly aware how frequently such Attempts have failed, to obtain from Labourers an Account of their annual Income; and I do not think that my own Experience, or the Experience of others, would justify me in saying that a complete Account can commonly be so obtained; but the Means that I adopted to procure the Return which I have put in to your Lordships Committee were, that I applied to the most respectable and intelligent Farmers throughout the District to give me an Account of the Monies that they then paid to their Men, mentioning each by Name; and it is from the Average Returns so made to me, under the respective Heads which your Lordships will find in that Table, that I have been able to make something like an Approximation to a Knowledge of the Income of Labourers throughout the Counties of Norfolk and Suffolk.

But as to their Mode of expending it, you do not feel able to give Information?

As to their Mode of expending it I do not think that any Person in the more wealthy Ranks can judge of the Means of minute Economy, and the Expedients adopted by the Labourers Family, or could, without a very large Amount of Trouble indeed, make himself Master of those Expedients. I confess that I am not myself so far Master of them as to enable me to lay before your Lordships that specific Statement of Details which alone you would value.

All you know is that they live somehow or other upon what they earn?

What I know is, that I have presented to your Lordships an Account, showing that the Income of the Labourers Family does increase as the Size of their Family increases, and that it is much larger in Amount than you would be led to suppose from the Amount of Day Wages which is known to prevail in those Districts.

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That is where the Children are able to work?

Whether the Children are able to work or not your Lordships will find that the nominal Rate of Wages at 9*s.* will not account for the Rate of Income in the Table which I have given.

And there are few large Families, are there not, in which the Children are not of sufficient Strength and Age to be able to add to the Family's Earnings?

Certainly; I believe that the Cases in which the Children are so young that they cannot work are very rare Exceptions indeed.

In your Part of the Country, did you not state that there is very little Work for Children?

I believe that I stated exactly the contrary.

What is the general Food of Persons who are living upon the lowest Income with large Families?

They eat very good Wheaten Bread in Suffolk, and that is the chief Article of Diet; and it is quite astonishing to me, who am accustomed to the Habits of the People in the North, to observe how much Wheaten Bread is eaten by the Labourers of Suffolk, whose Income I have described in this Table. The Manufacturers in the North, obtaining an Income of 2*l.* 2*s.* or 3*l.* 3*s.* a Week, eat a very large Amount of Oatmeal and Potatoes, and a small Amount of Wheaten Bread, and they also do not eat much Meat (I speak of Manchester and the large Towns); but in the Southern Counties with which I have been acquainted, having been frequently in the habit of visiting the Labourers Cottages, and also of making Inquiries in every other Way, I should describe the staple Article of Diet to be Wheaten Bread of good Quality.

Have they not often Potatoes?

No, not often Potatoes, unless they have a Garden; and very seldom Oatmeal.

Do they get Bacon or Cheese?

More frequently Bacon than Cheese. The Meat which the Labourer procures for his Family is obtained when he keeps One or Two Pigs, and he gets a Portion of One Pig, or the whole of One, for his Family; and it is the Custom in the Country for the Farmers in Harvest Time to make Presents to the Labourers of Bacon, as a Perquisite which they give them for the Weeks of Harvest Work; those Perquisites of course differ very much according to the Usages of Districts very near to each other, and the Customs of different Farmers; but in some Cases, a comfortable Addition to their Income is realized by the Labourers in that Way.

In the Workhouses the Diet Table gives them but small Quantities of Bread; does it not?

The Bread forms the larger Portion of the Diet of the Workhouse; Bread or Suet Puddings.

Those Dietaries vary?

They do; but the staple Article of the Diet of the Workhouse is Bread; and I may, in order to convince your Lordships of that Fact, read to you the Proportion that that Article bears to the other Articles of the Diet Table of the Woodbridge Union. The Number of Ounces of Bread, Cheese, and Butter per Week, of which Bread forms by far the greatest Proportion, are 150½ Ounces. I should imagine that at least 130 Ounces must be Bread. The Number of Ounces of Meat and Bacon per Week, 13; the Number of Ounces of Potatoes per Week, 24; the Number of Pints of Broth and Soup per Week, 1½; the Number of Pints of Gruel per Week, 10½; so that your Lordships will perceive that the staple Article of Diet in that Workhouse is Bread, Cheese, Butter, and Meat.

That being the Case, supposing the Bread to be 130 Ounces per Week, that divided by 7 would be something more than 18 Ounces; are you at all aware how much Bread a Labourer in full Employment eats in the course of a Day in Suffolk?

I do not think that I have made personal Investigations sufficient to enable me

me to inform your Lordships what the common Amount of Bread consumed by a Labourer at Work usually is. *J. P. Kay, M. D.*

Are you aware that Objections have been raised by the Labourers to the Diet in the Workhouse very much from their not getting a Sufficiency of Bread; that is to say, they have not complained of a Want of Sufficient Food in other respects, but that they would have preferred having less Meat, and so forth, and more Bread?

I am aware that some such Statements have been made; I have not heard them frequently in my District, where the Dietaries are often Dietaries consisting chiefly of solid Food; but I must remind your Lordships, that for a Family of the average Size the Cost of maintaining that Family in the Workhouse, as respects Food alone, is considerably greater than the ordinary Wages of Labour obtained for Day Work in any District of the Counties with which I am acquainted.

Although that Food is purchased on more advantageous Terms?

Yes; and it is therefore perfectly apparent that the whole Amount of Food consumed by a Family in the Workhouse must be greater than that which they can obtain out of it.

Do you imagine that that Preference of the Labourer to a greater Quantity of Bread without the other Descriptions of Food proceeds from mere Habit and Custom, or that in point of fact the Bread is more nutritious, and enables them better to work?

I myself prefer for the Labouring Classes (and have long ago stated my Opinion) a Diet of Wheaten Bread to any other Diet; and I will state the Ground, if I may be allowed: I believe that the Labourer maintained upon Wheaten Bread will not need such a Variety of Food as he would require if he were to adopt almost any other Article of Diet. I am aware that the Labouring Classes of the North, and the Irish, are subject to a Complaint, a "Stomach Pain," which is induced by subsisting to so large an Extent as they do on Potatoes or on Oatmeal, and that the Scotch are also subject to a Complaint denominated "Water-brash" or "Pyrosis," which is the Consequence of the same Uniformity of Diet of a less nutritious Quality; but my Belief is, that though Variety is necessary for Health, a Labourer sustained on Wheaten Bread requires less Variety than if he were sustained on Oatmeal or Potatoes; and on that Ground I should justify the great Preference for Wheaten Bread given in the Workhouse Dietaries.

And also the great Preference given by the Labourers to that Description of Food?

Assuredly.

With respect to Oatmeal, you say they get Ten Pints and a Half; have you known any evil Consequences arise to the Inmates of the Workhouses from the Use of that Oatmeal?

The poorer Classes in Norfolk and Suffolk are not accustomed to a fluid Diet, and on that Ground I have always suggested to the Boards of Guardians the Choice of the more solid Dietaries, because they are more consistent with the Habits of the Population; for example, the Dietaries which contained the Suet Pudding and Dumplings, in preference to the Dietaries containing Soup; but I believe there have been One or Two Cases in which I have suspected that there was a little Tendency to Diarrhœa in the Workhouse (though nothing remarkable of that Kind has occurred to my Knowledge). I believe that was more attributable to the Pea Soup than to the Gruel; and I have always found that it can be corrected either by diminishing the Quantity of Peas and substituting ground Rice or Flour in the Soup, or by some slight Change of a similar Kind in thickening the Gruel with Flour, but chiefly by mixing Flour or Rice with the Soup. It appears to me that the Pea Soup not being a Diet to which the Poor are accustomed, there have been Instances (but they have been very few in Number) in which it tended to occasion some Cases of Diarrhœa.

Are not those Dietaries given out by the Poor Law Commissioners in the first instance, or given out by the Guardians?

The Poor Law Commissioners have a certain Number of Dietaries which they

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they submit to the Boards of Guardians for Selection. Those Dietaries differ in the Way I have described; but in my District, in almost every Instance, whenever an Application has been made for a Modification of a Dietary it has been at once agreed to by the Poor Law Commissioners. The Woodbridge Union forms an Example of the Readiness of the Commissioners to accede to those Changes. During the Prevalence of Influenza about a Year ago, there was an Application made by the Surgeon of the Workhouse, that the Women suckling Children might be permitted to have Beer, which was at once conceded, and also to the Women employed in washing. It appeared that the Influenza had rendered that Change desirable.

Supposing that, instead of those Dietaries having been given out by the Commissioners at Somerset House, it had been left to the Boards of Guardians in each District to make out a Dietary to be approved by the Commissioners; what Objection would there have been to that?

I think that Proceeding would have been accompanied by the greatest Diversity in Decisions of the Boards of Guardians; and the Proof of that is, that the Dietaries of the Incorporations in Norfolk and Suffolk differed from 272 Ounces of solid Food per Week in One Workhouse to 165 in other Workhouses, there being also every other Sort of Dissimilarity in the Dietaries of those Workhouses; so that, if it be desirable to regulate the Dietaries by any Rule beneficial to all Parties, it does appear to me that the Parties to discharge that Duty are the Poor Law Commissioners.

Would it not be better done by the Guardians, in the first place, proposing a Dietary, and it being approved of or rejected by the Poor Law Commissioners, than by the present Mode of the Poor Law Commissioners giving out the Dietary?

My Intercourse with Boards of Guardians leads me to say, with great Respect to those who compose them, that when they have once adopted a Decision it is very difficult to get them to change their Minds. And I would rather desire that we should avoid coming to a Decision upon any Point on which there is a Chance of Disagreement than that they should make a Proposal in which their Knowledge and Judgment seemed to be involved, and with which the Poor Law Commissioners should be brought into adverse Contact.

Do not you think that the Boards of Guardians would have been very incompetent to fix the Diet Tables in the first instance?

I must say that I think the Majority of the Boards of Guardians would not be the proper Bodies.

How can the Poor Law Commissioners, who have had no local Knowledge, be more proper Persons to fix the Dietaries than the Boards of Guardians?

I apprehend the Course the Commissioners would pursue would consist in procuring from all Sources local Information, such as is derivable from the Dietaries of the Workhouses of London and of the Workhouses existing in Corporations; and from those they could have procured, with Ease to themselves, such a Mass of Information as would have enabled them with their Extent of Knowledge (and I hope with no sinister Motives influencing their Minds) to adopt a more correct Decision than could any local Board not having such Means at their Command.

But the usual Mode of the Poor subsisting themselves is entirely different in the North and in the South?

Yes.

Then why should the same Dietaries be sent out from Somerset House to regulate the Proceedings of the Boards of Guardians with respect to the Dietaries in both Parts of the Island; and why should not rather the Dietaries be originally proposed from the Quarter that must be best acquainted with the Habits of the People?

From an Examination of the Dietaries your Lordships will discover that there is a great Diversity in the Dietaries, and that they are intended to meet those Differences; that there is a Dietary proposed containing more Potatoes than the rest, and that the Proportion of solid and fluid Diet differs materially; but if it were proposed as a Matter of Regimen in a Workhouse that the Dietary should consist chiefly of Oatmeal and Potatoes, I think you would find that Physicians

would at once decide that such a Dietary would not be most desirable, and on the Ground which I have stated to your Lordships, that, especially where a large Amount of Exercise is not taken in the open Air, a Dietary consisting of such Elements without Variety would be likely to occasion that peculiar Malady of the Stomach, arising from the Irritation of the Nerves in that Organ, to which I have previously alluded. *J. P. Kay, M.D.*

The Dietaries in Prisons are given by the Magistrates, subject to Approval by the Secretary of State?

I am aware of that; and I must say, that if there is one Subject more than another that deserves the serious Attention of the Secretary of State it is the gross Dietaries of certain of the Prisons.

The Excess in Amount?

Certainly; the Prisons exceed very greatly indeed in Amount any thing that can be obtained by the independent Labourer.

Are you aware that those Dietaries have in many Instances been attempted to be reduced, and of the Effects of that Reduction?

I am aware that there have been successful Attempts at Reduction, and that there have been other Attempts which have failed; but I do not attribute that simply to the Dietary, but to this, that the State of moral Discipline and of the sanatory Regulations in those Prisons was not taken into account when the Changes were made. I must also state that the sanatory Regulations of the Workhouse and the moral Discipline are so similar that there is not the same Necessity for a Variety of Dietaries in the Workhouses as in the Prisons. For example, if you have in a Prison very severe Labour on the Treadmill you must have a different Diet from that which you would have if you depended for creating the proper Discipline of the Prison upon moral Discipline, such as Seclusion and Silence; you do not, in the latter Case, need a Dietary like that which you would need if you put the Men upon the Treadmill, but there is no such Diversity in the Discipline of the Workhouses.

Does not the Fact of a Man being kept in Confinement and Idleness necessitate a much more liberal Diet than if he is out of the Workhouse?

I should say, with great Deference to your Lordships, that it rather necessitates exactly the opposite.

Has it not been found, in the Experience of Prisons, that the mere Fact of the Confinement and the Circumstances under which the Party is placed in Prison necessitates a greater Amount of Diet than out of it?

The Condition of a Man in Prison, if every thing else were alike, is very different from the Condition of a Man in the Workhouse. The Man in a Prison is often undergoing perhaps a most exhausting Process from the moral Torment which he sustains; and that will account perhaps for the Necessity of a different Diet in the Prison from that in the Workhouse.

A mental Anguish from the Recollection of his Crime?

That alone I have known create severe Fever in Prison; and I have known Men come out of Prison suffering under Fever, which could not be accounted for in any other Way than by the moral Torment which they had undergone from their Degradation and their Loss of Caste in Society; and that alone has occasioned Typhus Fever.

Do you know any Instances in which the Magistrates of a County have endeavoured to reduce the Diet used in Prisons, and have found, almost immediately afterwards, that Diseases have prevailed, and that Medical Persons have directed that the Diet should be increased?

I am not aware of such Instances.

With respect to the Workhouses, would it be possible, in Suffolk and in Norfolk, and in those Counties where so much of the Subsistence of the poorer Classes is Wheaten Bread, to reduce the Quantity of Meat in those Workhouses, and to give them a larger Quantity of that Food?

Certainly; I think that that would be, to a certain Extent, a useful Expedient; but I must remind your Lordships that though I have stated that a Person needs less Variety of Food when he subsists upon Wheaten Bread, yet that one Principle essential to the proper Regulation of a Dietary is a certain Amount of Variety.

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Variety. If you attempt to support a Man upon any the most nutritious Diet, and give him no Variety, Disease will inevitably occur.

And you do not think that in No. 2. a greater Variety has been introduced than is necessary with a View to comply with the Conditions you have stated?

The sole Variety in the Diet of No. 2. (consisting chiefly of Bread and Cheese or Butter) is that on Three Days of the Week there is Meat Pudding or Suet Pudding for Dinner, the whole of the rest of that particular Dietary consisting of Bread and Cheese. I must say that less Variety, as it appears to me, cannot be introduced; and in point of fact the Suet Pudding is so nearly like Bread in its constituent Element that it may be counted a Wheaten Dietary altogether, so that this is a Dietary which, whenever I have been referred to, I have considered proper for Adoption in Norfolk and Suffolk, though I must say that I should like to see a little more Variety in it than exists.

Have the Commissioners allowed Butter instead of Cheese whenever they have been applied to?

They have, I believe, whenever they have been applied to from my District; and they have allowed other Variations if the Variations proposed have not affected a Principle,—if they have been Variations merely to suit the Peculiarities of the District,—rendering the Dietary more consistent with the Habits in Norfolk and Suffolk. Nevertheless one more consistent with those Habits than No. 2. Dietary could perhaps scarcely be devised.

Do not you think that generally so much Cheese is injurious to the Health of the Pauper?

I do not think so, for I have no Instances of that under my Knowledge.

For old People?

Old People are allowed Butter instead of Cheese, and they are allowed Tea and Sugar.

Has not this been the Practice, that the Poor Law Commissioners have sent to the Boards of Guardians a Set of Diet Tables for them to select, and if they have suggested any Alteration not materially varying the Principle they have invariably conceded to it?

Invariably, in my District, unless there has been the strongest Ground for refusing it, and that has occurred in only One Instance; and in that Instance the Board of Guardians yielded to a Suggestion which it was known they would be glad to get rid of by the Interference of the Poor Law Commissioners; and in that Case the Poor Law Commissioners made the minutest Investigation, so as to protect the Board of Guardians in the Exercise of their Discretion.

Is the Bread that is given in the Workhouses the same Quality of Bread that the Labourers use in their Cottages?

If any thing, it is better; and upon that I may remark, that in the old Incorporations I find, from their Bye Laws, the Inmates of the Workhouse were provided with Brown Bread, instead of the White Wheaten Bread which we have in the Workhouses.

What Bread do you provide in your Workhouses?

The Seconds White Bread.

Was the Parish of Framlingham Workhouse used for the Plomesgate Union?

It was during the Period that the Union Workhouse was in the Course of Erection.

Was there any Alteration of Diet from what it had been previously?

I am not aware what Change was made in the Dietary of the Parochial Workhouse when that Workhouse was used by the Union, or whether any Change was at that Time made, but now the Board of Guardians have adopted the Dietary No. 3.

In that Dietary a Pint and a Half of Gruel are given every Morning for Breakfast; has there been any Complaint at any Time of any Inconvenience or Illness from that Pint and Half of Gruel?

At one Time there did occur a little Diarrhœa in the Framlingham Workhouse; and immediately that I heard that there were a few Cases of Diarrhœa I rode

over to Framlingham and saw the Surgeon of the Workhouse, and he immediately made a Change in the Gruel, by directing some baked Flour to be used in the Gruel. I believe I may state to your Lordships that this occurred at a Time when Diarrhœa prevailed, and at a Season of wet and cold; and the Expedient of changing the Gruel was suggested by me merely to meet the prevalent Malady, and not because I thought the Gruel had any Connexion with the Existence of Diarrhœa within the Workhouse.

Was the Diarrhœa stopped in consequence?
Immediately. I am not aware that there has been any Recurrence of the Malady.

But generally you recommend the Board of Guardians to adopt No. 2. Dietary?
I have not always been successful in procuring the Adoption of my Recommendations.

In the Case of the Plomesgate Union did you recommend to them the Adoption of No. 2. Dietary?
I do not know that I was present when they chose the Dietary; but I hope that I was not misunderstood as meaning to say that in every Instance I have interfered to procure the Adoption of No. 2. Dietary, which I have not; all I have stated to the Board of Guardians has been generally this, that seeing that the Diet of the poorer Classes in Norfolk and Suffolk consisted of Wheaten Bread and of solid Food, such as Dumplings, it appeared to me better to prefer the more solid Dietary; but I have not interfered, except in the way of general Recommendation.

The Difference between No. 2. and No. 3. is, that a certain Quantity of Gruel is admitted into No. 3. which is not admitted into No. 2.?
Yes; but the Dietary No. 3. is a very solid Dietary, consisting of upwards of 160 or 170 Ounces of solid Food.

But, as compared with No. 2., the former has a greater Quantity of Gruel and a smaller Quantity of Bread?
In No. 2. there is no Gruel, and only Suet Pudding.

You prefer No. 2. because it contains more solid Food, the Poor of Norfolk and Suffolk using solid Food principally?
If I had any Preference for No. 2. over the other Dietaries it would be on that Ground; but I have Objections to No. 2. on other Grounds, and I shall not correctly state what I have done to your Lordships unless I describe it to be, that I have not recommended No. 2., but the more solid Dietaries.

Do you not recommend the more solid Dietary for Suffolk because the Food of the Suffolk People consists generally of more solid Diet?
Yes.

Then it is necessary that the Person who prescribes the Dietary should have local Knowledge of the Diet in the District?
Assuredly. I believe the Poor Law Commissioners took the greatest Care to possess themselves of local Knowledge, by procuring from all Parts of the Kingdom the Dietaries that were in Use.

Do you think that all the Knowledge of the Kingdom is equal to a Knowledge of the Habits of the People in the Parts where the Dietary is to be used?
I think that all the Knowledge of the Kingdom is much more than equal to the Knowledge of any particular District, as regards the general Principles upon which a Dietary is to be settled; and the only Way in which the Knowledge of a particular District is to interfere with all the Knowledge of the Kingdom is, to settle the Variation from the general Principle which shall be adopted in the particular District.

Is not the whole Knowledge of the Kingdom rather made up of the Aggregate of local Knowledge?
As far as concerns general Principles, I have endeavoured to show that all the Knowledge of the Kingdom was best calculated to settle the general Principle.

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Are you not aware that One of the Assistant Commissioners, Mr. Mott, has, not only on Theory but likewise by great Practice, turned his Attention to the Subject of Dietaries?

Certainly Mr. Mott has; and the Commissioners had at the Period when the Dietaries were framed, not merely the Advantage of Mr. Mott's Acquaintance with the Facts, but of the Knowledge of a great Number of practical Men, and of Physicians of the greatest Eminence, whose Attention was turned to the Subject; and from Conference with Persons of that Description, from whom a Mass of Information was obtained, the Decision respecting the Dietaries was adopted.

Not only theoretically but practically?

Not only theoretically but practically.

They have not quite lost sight of the Subject now, have they?

I may state that the Poor Law Commissioners, though they would be averse to the Appearance of yielding to popular Clamour upon any Subject whatever, are by no Means disposed, as I hope has been proved to be their Practice in my District, to adhere to the strict Letter of those Dietaries as a Thing that could not be improved by any Change whatsoever; and they, I have no Doubt, would be willing to introduce themselves, and will introduce, in the course of Time, such Changes as, I dare say, they may be already convinced are in particular Cases desirable.

What Offences had those Prisoners in the Gaols committed to which you alluded just now as having their Health affected notwithstanding the Food they had?

I cannot specify the Names of the particular Prisoners or the particular Offences.

Is it not your Opinion that this great Saving of Relief in the Woodbridge Union has been effected without inflicting any Privation upon the Families of those able-bodied Labourers?

I should not answer positively in the Affirmative, because I believe, during the State of Transition from the previous System to that which now exists, Privations were endured, and I should very much misrepresent my own Views of the Case if I did not at once distinctly admit that to be the Case; but I believe that those Privations, which were the Result of the Embarrassments absolutely inevitable in so great a Change, are now at an End, and that a much more wholesome State of Things, as regards the domestic Comfort of the poorer Class, is established in lieu of that previously existing.

Do you consider that much of that Privation that did exist in the State of Transition might have been obviated if there had been Discretion in the Board of Guardians to administer Out-door Relief?

That Discretion never was removed from the Board of Guardians of the Woodbridge Union, and is not removed at this present Time; and they have proceeded by the most gradual Steps through all the successive Changes in the Administration of Relief, according to their own Judgment, guided by the very excellent Chairman of that Board. There has never been, on my Part, or on the Part of the Poor Law Commissioners, any Application to them whatever to do otherwise than their own sound Discretion might suggest.

Then, in point of fact, the Order prohibiting Out-door Relief has never been issued to the Woodbridge Union?

It has not been issued to any Union in Norfolk or Suffolk, excepting Four, and to Two of those Four only recently, just previously to the 25th of March 1838; and in Two Cases out of the Four, upon the repeated Solicitations of the Boards of Guardians. In Two of those Cases out of Four the Commissioners did not issue the Order until the Third Solicitation; and in the Third Case I have been privately repeatedly informed that it was an Act of Weakness—that the Poor Law Commissioners should not support them by an Order.

But, in point of fact, the Out-door Relief to the able-bodied is refused through the whole Union?

Yes; with One Exception, the Out-door Relief to the able-bodied is at an End,

End, and has been for many Months past. I do not say that during that Period some slight Deviation in a particular Case may not occasionally have been admitted; but, though I have been myself at least Three Months out of the Country, in Letters that I have received during my Absence they have assured me that the Practice of the Boards of Guardians has continued the same as though I had been there in constant Communication with them; and therefore your Lordships may receive the most distinct Assurances from me that the Administration of the Law rests upon the Conviction of the Boards of Guardians themselves. *J. P. Kay, M.D.*

If Cases have occurred in which Out-door Relief has been given to the able-bodied they would be Exceptions?
Yes.

But for a considerable Time after the Formation of the Unions Out-door Relief was administered to the able-bodied?
Yes; Out-door Relief to the able-bodied was administered for, I think, a Year from the Formation of the Union, because the Workhouses were in the course of Alteration; and the Board of Guardians first offered the Workhouse to single Men, then to Men who were not of industrious Character, and who had small Families, and then to other successive Strata of Labourers, till, in the course of a Year or more, they had withdrawn Out-door Relief from the entire Class of able-bodied; and since then they have not relapsed to the old System, though they have not been supported by my Presence or an Order from the Poor Law Commissioners.

You say the Boards of Guardians, acting under their own Discretion, have adopted the general Rule of giving no Out-door Relief to able-bodied, but that they have departed from it in some Instances?
I said there might be an Instance, as the rarest Exception, occurring in the County, in which Out-door Relief might be given, but that would occur so rarely that I could scarcely take it to exist; and if it did occur I should rather expect it to arise from Infirmity of Purpose, from the Board being differently constituted one Day than it was at another, rather than an Act of deliberate Discretion on the Part of the Board.

You do not know any Instance in which they have departed from the Rule, and granted Relief to able-bodied out of the Workhouse?
I will endeavour to state to your Lordships what I know of the Matter. Immediately after the Snow Storm during the last Winter I applied to the Chairmen of the various Boards of Guardians throughout Norfolk and Suffolk for Information, whether they had found it convenient or useful to adhere to the Rule of refraining from giving Out-door Relief to able-bodied Men during the Pressure of the Season, and I received from every Board of Guardians, with Two or Three Exceptions, an Assurance that they had absolutely refrained from giving Out-door Relief to able-bodied Men; and in those Cases in which there had been a Departure from the Rule it had been exceedingly slight, and consisted of Relief in Kind to Half a Dozen Labourers or thereabouts, who might have been relieved on some particular Day; but the great Majority of the Unions throughout Norfolk and Suffolk, without Communications from myself, and simply guided by their own Discretion, refused Out-door Relief to the able-bodied, and, as they assure me, with the most beneficial Results to the Labourers themselves.

Were those Exceptions Cases of Labourers with large Families?
I cannot positively assure your Lordships what Kind of Families they were to which Relief was granted by the Two or Three Unions that I have stated gave Relief; but I believe the Relief was so administered, not in reference to the Size of the Families, but to a Variety of Circumstances affecting individual Labourers, who came up for Relief during the Pressure of the Snow Storm. I do not think that the giving of that Relief depended upon the Size of the Family, but on other Circumstances affecting their Condition.

Can you give a Notion of what those other Circumstances would be?
For example, if it were known in a particular Parish that there were Circum-

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stances embarrassing the Occupiers more in the Promotion of Employment in one Parish than in another, in the particular Instances in which the Boards of Guardians deviated, I think that might affect their Judgment; whether soundly or not, I am, perhaps, not required to state my Opinion to your Lordships.

The Mode in which Relief is given to the Paupers out of the House is, first, by the Relieving Officer, if he should think it necessary, giving them Relief upon his own Discretion, and reporting his having done so to the Board at their next Meeting?

In a Case of sudden and urgent Necessity the Relieving Officer has that Discretion.

And he reports to the Board?

He does.

And the Board then take the Matter into consideration, and order such Relief as they think the Case requires?

Certainly.

Is it understood to be in the Province of the Relieving Officer to reduce that Allowance so given by the Board without making a Report again to the Board for their Opinion?

I should say that sometimes a Board of Guardians may decide in the following Way: that, provided a Person shall be out of Work, they shall have so much Relief, but that if they are in Work they might decide, if they are giving Out-door Relief, that the Relief shall be diminished by the Amount of the Earnings. In that Case I imagine they would settle the Relief at such an Amount as would be sufficient, provided there were no Earnings; and they might then direct the Officer to deduct the Earnings when Earnings were obtained.

Do not you think that that Power given to the Relieving Officer to reduce the Allowance between the Two Meetings of the Guardians might lead to some Inconvenience with respect to the Paupers, thinking that the Relieving Officer himself of his own Authority stopped it, and contrary to the Directions of the Board?

I think that the System described has arisen in the following Manner; and by the Account of its Origin your Lordships will see how I am of opinion that it ought to be discontinued. It is a Remnant of the Practices existing at the Period when Allowances were given to able-bodied Labourers throughout the Union, when Workhouses were in the course of Erection; and at that Period it was absolutely necessary that the Discretion commonly entrusted to the Overseer should be given in the Manner described to the Relieving Officer; but that Period is now past; and as the only Classes now in the Receipt of Out-door Relief are the Widows with large Families, the aged and infirm, and the sick, I see no Reason whatever for a Continuance of any such Practice. In the early Periods of the Unions I do not think that the Practice could well have been refrained from.

At present you do think that it would be better that the Relieving Officer should not have that Discretion, but in case he saw any Reason for supposing that the Allowance was too great for the Pauper, that he should report to the next Board and that fresh Directions should be given?

Assuredly; and the only Ground for giving that Power to the Relieving Officer was the Necessity of entrusting him at the early Stages with the Duties of the Overseer. You cannot leave the one System and get into the other by a Step; but you must, if you desire to proceed satisfactorily, accommodate yourself even to existing Abuses.

Are you not aware that that Practice has continued up to this Time?

I am not, though I believe it is possible that it may; but I think that it ought to be discontinued.

And you would impress that Opinion upon the Boards of Guardians in your District?

If it is continued at all, I believe it is only in One or Two Unions.

Supposing the Board of Guardians fixed Relief to a Woman having a certain Number of Children at 3*s*., under the Idea that she earned nothing, and the Relieving

Relieving Officer found out in the course of the Week that she earned 3*s.* 6*d.*, would you disapprove of his withdrawing that Relief and reporting it to the next Meeting of the Board? *J. P. Kay, M.D.*

I do not see any Obstacle now, as I have explained, to the Relieving Officer being required to report to the Board, because the Number of Cases are now comparatively so small in which Relief is administered to Persons who have Ability to labour that the Board of Guardians have more abundant Means than they ever had before of making a minute Investigation into Cases, and keeping the Condition of Persons receiving that Relief distinctly in their Eye, so that there is not the same Necessity for giving a Discretion to the Relieving Officer now as formerly; and I must say that I have seen Cases in which that Discretion has been abused, not only to the Injury of the Board of Guardians, but of the Paupers; I should like, therefore, to see the Discretion confined to the narrowest Limits.

Take a Case such as this: supposing a Widow was ordered 3*s.* 6*d.* by the Board, and the Relieving Officer should find that the poor Woman had earned 1*s.* in the course of the Week; do you think it would be a proper Exercise of the Discretion of the Relieving Officer to stop her Allowance?

If this had occurred a Year ago I do not think it would have been possible to obviate it; but I think that now it is much better to pay for the Week, and then stop the Abuse, than trust the Relieving Officer with the Discretion.

Suppose another Case in which Assistance has been given by the Board of Guardians to a Person not otherwise a Pauper to bury a Relation; supposing that the Relieving Officer, before he advanced any Money, found that the Party had received Assistance adequate for the Purpose from Contributions among his Relations; would not that be a Case in which he would do but fairly by the Rate-payers in stopping it?

I must confess that I think the better Regulation would be that the Board of Guardians should be encumbered with the Necessity of making due Investigation before they ordered an Allowance. I would much rather that the Discretion of the Relieving Officer should be almost a Nullity; that he should become a mere Instrument for obtaining Information and paying the Poor.

Did you ever hear of any Circumstance in the Nature of a Quarrel, which led to Blows, between Sophia Booth and the Governor of the Nacton Workhouse?

I did not; and I may state that the Governor of that Workhouse and others have received the most positive Instructions from me and from the Boards of Guardians that they are to report every Instance of Punishment whatsoever to the Board at the next weekly Meeting; and in the Case of this particular Union I have received those Reports from the Board of Guardians weekly. I am assured by Mr. Shawe, and I believe that Mr. Constable, the Master of the Workhouse, has been mild and considerate in his Treatment of the Inmates; that he has had very unfrequent Occasion indeed to punish any of them; and I do not remember that any Report (or more than One Report) has been made to me of the Punishment of a Pauper in the Workhouse.

Perhaps he does not consider this as a Punishment?

Mr. Constable has informed me that he did not knock this Person down, but put her out of the Room; and in consequence of her subsequent Contrition for her extreme Insolence and Violence he told her that he should not report her to the Board for Punishment; and on that account the Visiting Committee did not hear of her Misconduct.

Was it not his Duty to report the Circumstance to the Visiting Committee or the Board?

I must say that I think he ought to report all such Misconduct to the Visiting Committee or the Board of Guardians; but his Assurance is that no more Force was used than to put the Woman out of the Apartment. As far as the Woman is concerned it appears to me that he ought to have reported her Conduct; but I beg to draw your Lordships Attention to the Difference between the Rules established by the Poor Law Commissioners, as respects the Punishment of Inmates of Workhouses, and the Rules that were established in this very Nacton House under the Incorporation of the Colneis and Carlford Hundred.

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The Rule to which I refer as existing and in force in the House of Industry of the dissolved Incorporation is, "That they, the Paupers, shall not strike or abuse the Governor or Matron or their Assistants, but they shall obey them at all Times, and if they think themselves aggrieved they shall make their Complaint to the next weekly Committee, who shall examine into the Truth of it, and redress them if it be proper; but if any poor Person maintained in this House shall strike, abuse, or even behave disrespectfully to the Governor or Matron, or shall excite any Mutiny or Disturbance, or shall refuse to do the Work assigned to him, the Governor shall have full Power immediately to confine such Person or Persons by solitary Confinement, there to be kept on slender Diet, until Complaint can be made to the weekly Committee, if he shall judge that necessary; and the said Committee shall give such Directions and order such other Punishment as to them shall seem meet." Now I need not remind your Lordships that the only Discretion that is committed to the Master of a Workhouse, as respects Punishment under the Order of the Poor Law Commissioners, is a Discretion that Persons coming under the Description of being refractory may be punished by Confinement with an Alteration of Diet, which is not to be in Quantity but in Quality, for a Period not exceeding Twenty-four Hours, or such further Period as may be necessary, in order that the Offender may be carried before a Justice of the Peace to be dealt with according to Law. But here is a Power to confine a Person for Six Days on slender Diet.

What are you reading from?

The Rules and Regulations of the Nacton House of Industry, the very House in question as regulated under the Board of the Colneis and Carlford Incorporation.

That is rather an Attempt to defend the System at present under the new Poor Law by a Reference to that which took place under the old; is it not?

I do not conceive it to be necessary to enter into any Defence of the Regulations which the Poor Law Commissioners have adopted respecting Punishment.

But whether right or wrong, it is making a Comparison between that which occurred under the old Law and the new?

I was making a Comparison in order to show the Superiority of the Regulations of the Poor Law Commissioners, but not as a Defence of those Regulations, which I do not feel myself called upon to defend.

Will you refer to any Part of the Poor Law which empowers the Governor of a Workhouse to imprison for Twenty-four Hours?

I believe the Regulations are framed by the Powers conferred by the Clause which empowers the Commissioners to make Regulations for the Government of Workhouses. Reference is made in the Act to the Gilbert Act and other Acts, and the Powers are supposed to be similar to those given in those Acts.

You stated that you had yourself ordered or recommended to the Boards of Guardians that in all Cases every Punishment inflicted should be recorded by the Governor and reported to the Board?

Yes.

Is not that by an Entry in the Punishment Book?

The Practice differs. Either by an Entry in the Book describing the Punishments that had been inflicted during the Week, if any, which are very rare, or by a general Report by the Master of the Workhouse, in which he includes that among other Particulars.

It is not the invariable Practice to keep a Punishment Ledger?

It is not; but I think it is the invariable Practice to make a written Report to the Board of Guardians, comprising that among other Particulars.

Is it the Practice to oblige the Governor to keep a Journal, in which he enters something every Day; for instance, if there is nothing particular, he enters, "Nothing particular to notice"; but is he obliged in your District to fill up a Journal every Day?

In One of the Unions now under Examination by the Committee,—the Plomesgate,

gate,—such a Journal is kept, but in the other it is not kept in that Form, and that will describe the Practice of the District. The Practice in question does obtain in certain of the Unions, and not in others. *J. P. Kay, M. D.*

Do not you think it very important that such a Journal should be kept?
I do.

Is there not a particular Form of Punishment Book drawn up?
No.

Why, if you say that it is important that such a Journal should be kept, has it not been kept?
It is not enjoined by the Commissioners that it should be kept, and there are many Improvements upon the present Practice which might be adopted. I have stated some Things which it would be desirable should be done, but it is difficult to procure the Consent of the Guardians to the Adoption of all these particular Regulations, or to procure at once a Conformity in Practice to all the Improvements which Experience suggests; that, among others, is one of the Improvements, the general Introduction of which I should most strongly advise; but I might occupy your Lordships Time with Suggestions of other Improvements, which Time may enable us to introduce.

Is there any Regulation of the Poor Law Commissioners that applies to Governors of Workhouses striking or using personal Violence to any of the Paupers within the House?
The Masters of the Workhouses are not, by the Commissioners Regulations, permitted to inflict any corporeal Chastisement whatever; if they do so, they must do it upon their own Responsibility, and they would do it contrary to the constant Direction of the Assistant Poor Law Commissioners and the Boards of Guardians, and would therefore render themselves amenable to whatever Powers there are in the Law to restrain personal Violence.

Will you refer to the Regulation of the Commissioners which applies to the Masters of Workhouses inflicting any personal Violence?
The Regulations of the Poor Law Commissioners are of this Sort: they describe certain Offences which Persons who are to be deemed disorderly may commit; they describe certain other Offences which Persons to be deemed refractory may commit; and they describe the Nature and Extent of the Punishment which the Governor is authorized to inflict, and which consists in the Alteration of the Quality and not in the Quantity of the Diet, and Confinement for not more than Twenty-four hours. I apprehend that the Poor Law Commissioners have no more thought it necessary to direct the Governors not to strike the Paupers than they have considered it necessary to direct the Governors not to kill Paupers, or to do any improper Thing with respect to the Persons of Paupers; if they had done, they must have created a List of Things which Governors were prohibited to do with respect to the Persons of Paupers.

Is there any Regulation of the Poor Law Commissioners which goes to prevent the Governors of Workhouses from ill-using, either by striking or by using violent Language to Persons under their Care?
I am not aware of any Regulation which, in set Terms, directs Governors not to ill-use the Persons in the Workhouse; but I hope it is to be presumed that the Inquiries which the Visiting Committee make from Week to Week in the several Wards, and the Authority and superintending Care of the Board of Guardians, are a sufficient Protection.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

The Right Honourable the Earl of STRADBROKE is examined as follows: *Right Hon. Earl of Stradbroke.*

CAN your Lordship state what Wages able-bodied Labourers, who have been in the Workhouse, and who have gone out of the Workhouse, having found Work, have received?
I know that those who are doing Day Labour receive 10*s.* a Week, but the

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general Practice in Suffolk, wherever it is possible, is to give a Man Task Work.

Was that the Practice before the Poor Law passed?

It was the Practice very often to give them Task Work then; but I was about to explain the real Difference between the Price of Wages now and the Price under the old System. Before the new Law came into operation there were a great Number of able-bodied Men constantly out of Employ, and it was usual to give those Men 9*s.* a Week, as being the smallest Sum upon which they could support themselves and Families. I could at any Time have had any Number of Men I required to work for me at a much less Sum than that, because by Law they could not have refused what I offered, they being in the Receipt of Parochial Relief. At the present Moment I could not get a Man anywhere for a less Sum than 10*s.* a Week.

Your Lordship is of opinion that Wages have risen in that Part of the Country?

There can be no Doubt that Wages have materially risen in the Way I have described. Under the old System, if I had offered a Man 6*s.* a Week he could not have refused that, because he could not obtain a better Market; at the present Time I could not obtain a Man at less than 10*s.* a Week.

Of what District of the Country is your Lordship speaking?

As Chairman of the Blything Union, which contains Forty-nine Parishes; and I am intimately acquainted with all the adjoining Parishes.

With respect to the relative Employment of Labourers now at Task Work and at Day Work, can your Lordship state, from your Experience as a practical Agriculturist, what Proportion of the yearly Circle of the Agricultural Labourers Employment would be in Task Work and what in Day Work?

A very great Proportion in Task Work. It is usual with all Farmers in my Neighbourhood to employ the Men in Task Work whenever it is possible.

Beginning at Lady Day there would be the hoeing of Wheat?

Yes; from Lady Day to November I should say the Men are almost entirely employed in Task Work.

Haying, Harvesting, Turnip-hoeing are done by Task Work?

Yes.

Would there not be after that Copse-cutting, Timber-lopping, Hedging, and Draining?

The Landed Proprietors generally keep the Woods in their own Hands, therefore they would naturally have a good deal of Copse-cutting.

Is there a considerable Demand for Labour on the Farms at those Seasons of the Year to make up for what otherwise would be the surplus Proportion of Hands in other Engagements?

Certainly; the able-bodied Labourers in my Neighbourhood had Employment during the whole of the Two last Seasons.

Has your Lordship been in the habit of visiting the Workhouse much?

Constantly.

Have you ever had any Complaints of any of the Inmates of the Workhouse with respect to their Diet, either with respect to Quality or Quantity?

When the new Law came first into operation in the Blything Union, Complaints were made to me by able-bodied Labourers that the Food was not sufficient; the Answer I gave was, that if they had not sufficient Food they would naturally reduce in Weight, and therefore I should test the Fact by having them weighed, and from that Day to the present Hour I have had no Complaint of any Description.

From their Appearance do you suppose that they had not sufficient?

I have certainly many Opportunities of seeing those Men, and I am perfectly satisfied that in almost every Case their Appearance is very much better after they have been in the Workhouse for a short Time than it was at the Time they came in.

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Does not your Lordship think that they are better fed in the Workhouse than they are out?

I think their having very little Work to do in the House is one Cause; and certainly their Appearance is generally more healthy.

The Field for your Lordship's Observation has been rather limited, as far as the In-door Maintenance of the able-bodied is concerned, because you have not many in the Workhouse?

Latterly we have had very few in the Workhouse.

Is 10*s*. the highest Rate of Wages in your Neighbourhood?

10*s*. is the usual Price given for Day Labour; but we have very little Day Labour; it is generally Task Work.

How does your Lordship think that a Labourer can maintain himself and his Wife and Eight Children upon 10*s*. a Week?

That is a Misapprehension. There is no Instance in our Neighbourhood of a Man having a large Family without One or Two or more Children being employed as well as himself.

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned till To-morrow, Twelve o'Clock.

Die Veneris, 8° *Junii* 1838.

The Lord WHARNCLIFFE in the Chair.

Mr. WILLIAM WELTON is called in, and examined as follows:

YOU are a Surgeon, are you not?
I am.

Where do you reside?
At Woodbridge.

Are you a Medical Officer of the Woodbridge Union?
I am.

Have you the whole Union under your Charge?
A Division called the Woodbridge Division, embracing a Fifth of the entire Union.

Will you name the Parishes which are contained in it?
Including Half of Woodbridge, Melton, Bredfield, Debach, Charlsfield, Dallinghoo, Petistree, Ufford, and Bromeswell.

And the Workhouse?
Not the Workhouse, at the present Period.

Is the Workhouse at Nacton?
Yes.

In whose District is that?
Mr. Wilkins's District.

Has he any District besides the Care of the Workhouse?
He has some other Parishes.

Were you at one Time Surgeon of the Workhouse?
I was. An Alteration has been made recently.

When was the Alteration made?
I attended the Workhouse from the 20th of February to the 25th of March; I attended for a Month, and immediately another Alteration was made, and I resigned.

How long ago is it since you attended the Workhouse constantly?
Since the 25th of March last; then I resigned to a Medical Friend, who was appointed.

Had you previously to that been employed as the Medical Attendant of the Workhouse?
I had; Four Months in every Year.

How came that Arrangement to be made?
It was made at the Formation of the Union; there were then Four Medical Men to the Union; Three were appointed to attend the Workhouse Four Months each in the Year, in conjunction with their other Duties.

So that you took it alternately?
Yes.

While you had the Charge of the Workhouse did you receive any Complaints of what the People called the Skilley disagreeing with them; do you know what that is?
I do; the Oatmeal. I recollect a few complained of their Diet.

Mr. W. Welton.

Have you ever yourself seen what they had for their Breakfast?
I do not recollect to have inspected it particularly.

Do you know in what State of Fluidity it was?
I believe I mentioned to the Governor repeatedly the Statements conveyed to me.

In what Way did you mention them to the Governor?
I told him that some slight Complaints had been made.

Did the Paupers state to you that it was very thin?
I do not recollect.

State precisely what it was you said to the Governor upon the Subject?
I believe I might have merely stated that some slight Complaints had been made to me, and that I wished to know whether he thought they were founded in Truth.

Some slight Complaints, of what Nature; do you mean Complaints of their being unwell?
That they had stated that the Diet was not quite as they wished.

In what respects had they stated to you that it was not as they wished?
It was stated in a general Way when they spoke to me.

Did that apply to the Gruel only, or to the other Parts of their Diet?
My Impression was that it applied more to the Pea Soup.

Was there any thing like Diarrhœa in the House?
I recollect some slight Cases of Diarrhœa occurring among the Children.

To what did you attribute that?
To a certain Portion of Treacle which they were allowed, which I considered might have occasioned a slight Relaxation of the Bowels.

Was that sanctioned by the Dietary of the Poor Law Commissioners?
To the best of my Knowledge it was.

Is the Dietary hung up in the Workhouse?
It is.

Are you aware that there is Treacle in the Dietary?
I am satisfied that there is.

Have you seen it in the Dietary?
The Impression is that I have seen it.

When you speak of slight Cases of Diarrhœa, was there any thing like Disease which gave you Uneasiness.
Not any, or I should have made further Inquiries.

Upon speaking to the Governor, what did he say?
He treated it as a general Complaint that the Poor are in the habit of making; a Sort of Discontent.

What was the Name of that Governor?
Constable.

Have you had any Complaints in the Workhouse that you attributed in any way to the Diet, or to any Part of the Diet; have there been any sick People in the Workhouse whose Maladies you attributed to the Diet which they were receiving in the Workhouse?
I am not aware of any.

Do you remember a Woman of the Name of Booth being in the Workhouse?
Quite well.

Were you ever sent to attend her?
I once attended upon her.

When was that?
It was some Time in March last.

Mr. W. Welton.

Did you attend upon her by Desire of the Relieving Officer or of the Guardians?
She was at that Time in the Workhouse.

For what Purpose did you attend upon her; what was her Complaint?
She had a slight Attack of Fever, I think, complicated with a slight Affection of the Chest.

Did you order her any Food, or something different from the Diet Table?
I did; I put her upon a Sick Dietary; that I considered requisite.

What did you order her?
I cannot positively state that; Gruel, probably.

Did you order her Beer?
When she became convalescent, I believe I ordered her Beer.

And Meat?
A Portion of Meat, probably.

Did she complain to you at that Time of not getting what you had ordered her, or of not getting enough Food?
I do not recollect any specific Complaint; I think it is probable she might complain to me.

You were the Person that prescribed for her?
I did.

Did she complain that what you prescribed was not given to her?
I do not recollect.

If she had complained would you not recollect it?
The Nurse complained of her not taking the Medicine when it was offered to her.

Did she complain to you that what you had ordered her was not enough, or that she had not got what you ordered her?
No Complaint was made of that Kind, to the best of my Recollection.

Was she not suckling a Baby at that Time?
She had several Children, whether a Child at the Breast, I do not recollect.

Did she complain that she had not Food sufficient to support her as she was employed in washing or in cooking?
I think she did make a slight Complaint.

Was Beer ordered in consequence?
I do not recollect Beer being ordered, but I dare say I did order her Beer; Meat I am confident I did order her; but my Journal will show whether I ordered her Beer.

Have you it here?
I have.

Will you look into your Journal, and see whether you find any Entry of a Woman of the Name of Sophia Booth, between Michaelmas and March?
"February 23rd: Widow Booth, Forty-six, sick with Dyspepsia and Affection of the Stomach."

Did you ever attend her in consequence of a Blow that she received, or that she stated that she had received, from the Governor of the Workhouse in her Breast?
Never, to my Recollection.

Would you not have recollected if you had?
Certainly.

Was she Twice under your Hands?
I recollect but once.

Will you look at your Journal?

[The Witness examines the Journal.]

One of her Daughters was attended by me.

Mr. W. Welton.

But never herself?
I do not see any Entry.

You are positive that when you visited her in the Workhouse she said nothing about having received a Blow from the Governor of the Workhouse in her Breast?
I feel quite positive upon that Head.

Do you remember her bringing a Basket, and showing you a Piece of dry Bread, and saying to you, "I cannot eat that; do allow me something else"?
I do not recollect any thing of the Sort occurring with that Individual.

Do you think you should recollect it if it had happened?
Certainly.

Can you then say that you are confident it did not happen?
I feel confident that it did not occur.

Have you at any Time, in consequence of your being consulted by those Persons who you say had a Relaxation of their Bowels brought on in consequence of the Food, got the Diet of the House altered?
Not generally. I exercised the Privilege allowed to the Medical Man of ordering such a Diet as may be proper for the Sick in individual Cases.

But if you thought that that slight Diarrhœa of which you have spoken proceeded from any Part of the Dietary, why did you not represent that to the Guardians in order that they might alter the Dietary in that respect?
I did not consider it of sufficient Importance.

Was there the same Sort of Complaint prevalent in the Neighbourhood amongst Persons not in the Workhouse at the same Time?
It was a wet and damp Season, which was likely to affect the Bowels as well as the Chest.

Were People in fact affected in that Way in the Neighbourhood?
There were Cases of it out of the House.

In the House they were only Cases of Children?
Confined, to the best of my Recollection, I will not say entirely, to Children, but for the most part.

You attribute that to the Treacle which was given them?
Yes.

There is a Parish Workhouse in Framlingham?
Yes; it is in Wickham Market now.

Do you know any thing of that Workhouse previously?
No, except that I have attended with a Medical Friend in individual Cases.

You have not had it under your Charge?
No.

What were those individual Cases that you were called upon to attend?
I saw one Case of contracted Joints.

You are well acquainted with the Surgeon that has that District under his Charge?
Very well.

Have you ever had any Conversation with him about the Workhouse; how far there was any Disease from the Diet used in that Workhouse?
Never upon the Diet; upon the general Management, and so on.

Have you ever heard him state that in that Workhouse there was a Prevalence of Diarrhœa, or any thing of that Sort, in consequence of the Diet?
Never.

Do you think that if there had been, he would probably have mentioned that to you?
I think it is probable that he would.

Mr. W. Welton.

You have of course conversed with him upon all Medical Subjects relative to the Workhouse?
Yes.

Did the Paupers in general object to the Diet?
I have heard some Objections to the Cheese.

Did they ever state to you that they had not Bread enough?
I never heard that Complaint.

With respect to those Complaints that you have heard from them, do you think that there was any Ground for them, and that what they complained of affected their Health at all?
I have no Reason to suppose so; there were a few general Regulations which I thought proper to have made.

You suggested some Regulations, and they were adopted, were they?
They were.

Are the People in the Workhouse healthy now?
I believe the People in the Workhouse are healthy.

How long have you been in Practice?
Since the Year 1829.

Always at Woodbridge?
No; I have been abroad, in the East India Service; I had Charge of a Detachment of a Regiment to India.

How long have you been settled at Woodbridge?
Six or Seven Years.

What was the Nature of the Complaint as to the Cheese; was it with regard to the Quality of it, or the Quantity, or to their having Cheese at all?
They complained of its constipating the Bowels.

Is the Quantity of Cheese such as would produce that Effect?
In certain Constitutions it might produce that Effect; Cheese in general is rather likely to have that Effect.

Do you think that it had that Effect in the Cases in which it was complained of?
I think it is probable that it had to a certain Extent.

Taking that Diet Table, do you think there is too much Cheese given in proportion to the rest of the Food?
I think it bears rather a large Proportion.

Do the poor Persons out of the Workhouse eat Cheese?
Yes, very generally.

Is the Proportion of Cheese to their Bread less out of the Workhouse than they have in the Workhouse?
I should be inclined to think much the same.

Is it not very possible that Cheese might produce that Effect when they were in the Workhouse, not undergoing Labour, and would not produce it when they were labouring hard?
Decidedly.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Mr. J. Constable.

Mr. JOHN CONSTABLE is called in, and examined as follows:

YOU are Master of the Nacton Workhouse?
Yes.

Have you been a Soldier?
Yes.

In what Regiment?
17th Lancers.

Mr. J. Constable.

How long have you been discharged?
Fifteen Months.

Were you a Sergeant?
Yes.

Are you a married Man?
Yes.

Do you know a Woman of the Name of Sophia Booth, who was in the Nacton Workhouse?
Perfectly well.

When did she come into the Workhouse?
On the 25th of October last.

How did she conduct herself when she first came into the Workhouse?
Generally speaking, very well, until that Occurrence happened, which was in December.

How was she employed?
Before that she was generally employed in House-work, such as Scouring, and Needle-work.

And in the Kitchen?
No, not in the Kitchen before that.

Was she in the Kitchen after December; after that Occurrence?
Yes.

What is the Occurrence you allude to in the Month of December?
This happened in about the 5th or 6th of December; she was ordered into the Wash-house to assist the Women in washing, and she refused to go, unless she was allowed Beer.

Where did this take place?
In the House.

In what Part of the House?
In her own Room; she was ordered to go into the Wash-house.

Was it you or the Matron who directed her to go?
The Matron, my Wife.

Were you present?
I was not present when she was first ordered into the Wash-house.

She said she could not go unless she had some Beer allowed her, you say?
She did go, and stopped there till Dinner Time; and when the People came into the Hall to Dinner, she refused to leave the Hall after Dinner was over unless I would give her some Beer. I told her I could not allow her any Beer, because it was against the Rules; then this Riot commenced.

Will you give the Particulars of the Riot?
I ordered her out of the Hall, and she refused to go, and she became very riotous, and in fact put herself in an Attitude as if she were going to strike me.

Did she say any thing?
She did; she used some very foul Language.

What was that?
I do not remember what the Language was, but she used some foul Language to me; but I wanted to put her out of the Hall by Force.

How?
I laid hold of her.

Did you take hold of her by her Arms?
By her Shoulders most likely; and in forcing her out I had some very great Difficulty, and she in the Scuffle scratched me in the Face; when I got her into the Passage out of the Door, she fell, I believe from my pushing her, against the Wall, and scratched her Elbow in a trifling Way; and then I shut the Door.

Mr. J. Constable.

You are sure you did not strike her?
I am certain that I did not strike her.

Did she say, "Do not strike me," or any thing of that Kind?
She did; she kept calling out all the Time.

Did she accompany that with any thing else?
She used very bad Language to me all the Time.

Did she talk of being made of China?
I do not remember such a Word as that.

Do you remember her challenging you to fight?
Yes, she certainly did that; I thought she was going to strike me; and I got hold of her by the Shoulders and pushed her out.

Did she talk of your being Irish?
No.

Are you an Irishman?
No. She must have alluded to the Schoolmaster in that respect.

Did the Schoolmaster come up at that Time?
He did.

What Part did he take in this which you call a Riot?
He did not take much, because he did not come up till I got her outside the Door, and she had hold of my Coat, and I could not disengage myself from her till he came up, and he assisted me in getting away; and then we closed the Door.

You are certain that he did not strike her?
I am quite confident.

When she was down did he stand across her?
He did.

Did he take hold of her Throat?
I did not see him touch her Throat; he had hold of her, keeping her down.

Whereabouts?
I cannot say; he was across her, and his Back was towards me, and he held her down for a Minute or Two.

Did you hear her speak; and did she speak with Difficulty?
No, she did not; she called out to him to let her go.

You are aware that if a Person is throttled her Voice will be weakened?
Yes.

Did she speak in the Way that a Person throttled would speak?
By no means.

And, from what you saw and heard, you do not think that it is true that he had hold of her Throat?
I do not think that it is true at all.

After this Affair occurred, did she go to her Work as you desired her.
No; she pretended not to be well for a Day or Two after this; and afterwards she did go the Wash-house and washed.

What did she say was the Matter with her?
She pretended not to be well, from the Falls she had got, and her Elbow being bruised.

Did the Doctor see her?
He did.

Were you present when she saw the Doctor?
I was not.

Did you ever have any Conversation with the Doctor upon it?
Not on that point.

Mr. J. Constable.

You did not tell him what had occurred?
No, I did not.

Why did you not tell him?
I had no Occasion; he never sent to me about it. The Woman went to the Doctor. I know not what she stated. I cannot say whether she stated she was ill, or from the Bruises she received.

Did she show you the Bruises?
She showed me her Arm; it was merely scratched against the Wall.

When was that?
The Day after it happened.

Was it Black or Blue?
No, not at all.

Did you ever mention this to the Visiting Committee or the Board of Guardians?
No.

Why?
Because the Woman next Day showed a great deal of Contrition, and was sorry for what she had done, and I did not mention any thing of it.

If you had mentioned it, it would have been with a view to having her punished?
Yes.

Do not you think it would be better when you have these Riots, in all Cases, to report them to the Visiting Committee or to the Guardians?
That is generally so, but in this Instance it was not done; the Woman showed a good deal of Contrition the next Day, and was sorry, and therefore I said nothing about it.

Do not you think your not doing it will sometimes induce Complaints against you, and false Stories to be told by those Persons with whom those Occurrences take place?
No, I have no particular Reason to think so.

In this Case Sophia Booth, in consequence of this Riot, has stated that you struck her on the Breast; would it not have been better if you had reported the Circumstance to the Visiting Committee or to the Board of Guardians, as they would then have had an Opportunity of inquiring upon the Spot into it?
Yes; now I see it would.

Are you not ordered so to do?
We do generally, when Cases of that Kind happen, report them to the Guardians.

In point of fact then it was from Kindness to the Woman that you did not report the Case?
It was because the Woman acknowledged Contrition.

It was not from Consciousness of yourself having done any Wrong, but from a Desire to spare the Woman the Punishment that might be inflicted upon her?
Yes, it was.

After that did she behave better?
She did; so much so, that we were induced to show her some Indulgence, and took her into the Kitchen and employed her as a Kitchen Servant, which is an Indulgence, as the Kitchen Servant gets a better Diet, and so forth, than the others.

It was Part of her Employment in the Kitchen to mix the Gruel?
Yes.

Will you state how that is mixed?
It depends upon the Number in the House, and the Quantity of Oatmeal that is given out.

Mr. J. Constable.

How much Water to each Pint of Oatmeal?
We do not give it out by Pints; we give out so many Pounds per Day.

How much Water to the Pound of Oatmeal?
I think it is generally reckoned a Gallon of Water to a Pound; but that is generally left to the Cooks. The Quantity they generally know, between the Matron and the Cooks. They generally manage that Sort of Thing between them.

But the Matron gives Direction what Quantity of Water shall be put to the Oatmeal, does she not?
Yes, generally.

Has she not a regular Rule upon the Subject?
No, not exactly a general Rule, because the Number varies every Day; we have more or less People every Day.

Then there would be more or less Pounds of Oatmeal?
Yes.

There is the same Proportion of Water to each Pound of Oatmeal, whatever is the Number of Persons in the House; is there not?
I understand the Question: but we have no general Rule to go by in doing that.

Have the Visiting Committee ever inquired into that?
The Gruel is generally made of one Thickness.

If it is not of the Thickness that you desire it to be, you go on boiling until a sufficient Quantity of Water evaporates to bring it up to that Consistence?
Yes, that is the Way we generally tell; by the boiling of it till it comes to a proper Thickness.

How often a Day do you make the Gruel?
Once.

And all that is made is consumed?
Yes; sometimes there may a little over.

The Object is to make only what is wanted each Day?
Yes.

And you give a Pint and a Half to each Person?
Yes.

You make a Pint and a Half for each Person in the House?
Yes.

You weigh out the Oatmeal, and then you proportion the Water to the Quantity of Gruel that will be necessary for the Inmates?
Yes.

Have you not a regular Proportion?
If Two or Three People go out To-day, or Two or Three more come in, we generally add a little more accordingly, or diminish a little more.

Is it not in the Power of the Cook, if she thinks proper, to put in more Water than ought to be put to the Oatmeal?
If she does we can always tell, in giving it out, if it is not of the proper Thickness.

You find that the Judgment of the People in mixing the Oatmeal with the Water is correct?
They generally know.

Do you give it out yourself?
I do.

And you see that the Consistency is such as you think right?
Yes.

Have you ever heard any Complaints of the Gruel?
Yes; there might be One or Two, on One or Two Occasions, who complained that it was not boiled enough.

Mr. J. Constable.

Did you alter it?
That was rectified the next Day.

Was there Ground for that Complaint?
I believe there was.

It requires a little Care in boiling not to make it a Jelly?
Yes.

If due Care is not taken a larger Quantity of Oatmeal may be put in the Water, and yet it will not make so good a Gruel as a smaller Quantity well boiled?
That is the Case.

Did Mrs. Booth complain of the Gruel?
I do not know whether she did individually or not, but there was a Complaint.

Was she handy and intelligent in doing the Cookery, and making the Gruel?
When she was in the Kitchen she was very handy.

Do you consume Beef or Mutton in the House?
Beef.

What do you do with the Water in which the Beef is boiled?
It is kept till the next Day and made into Pea Soup.

Did you ever hear of their complaining of the Pea Soup?
No.

Have you had any Difficulty in the Pea Soup, in getting the Peas to split?
Our Peas are boiled to that Degree that they always split.

You do not remember any Peas that would not split?
Never.

Was the Treacle that was put into the Oatmeal ordered by the Board of Guardians or by the Poor Law Commissioners?
There is no Treacle in the Oatmeal.

What was the Treacle put into?
There was no Treacle ever used in the House but for young Children.

Was it not put into the Oatmeal?
No; it was given to the Mothers; and they used to use it with their Bread.

Is the Water put into the Copper in Pails-full?
Yes.

Is this the Sort of Proportion: to Twenty-eight Pounds of Oatmeal Twenty-four Pails of Water?
I dare say that is about the Proportion; I have no Doubt of it.

When that comes to be properly boiled does it make good thick Gruel?
Yes; that is the Sort of Gruel that we always have in the House; very good Consistency.

Do you use it yourself?
No; I cannot say I have ever used it; I have often tasted it.

How much Water will evaporate in the boiling?
Some will evaporate, but not a great deal.

But however it makes good thick Gruel?
It does; fit for any one to use.

Do they complain that they do not get Bread enough?
We have had Complaints of that Sort, but not generally; principally among the young People of the House.

Amongst the Children?
No; the young Men and Women.

Mr. J. Constable.

You have been accustomed to see Soldiers live on Rations; how do you think, comparing the Diet in the Workhouse with the Soldiers Rations, that the Paupers live?
I should say that they get more than Soldiers do; for instance, a Man in the House gets Twenty-one Ounces of Bread a Day; no Soldier gets that much; a Woman gets Seventeen Ounces, and Children in proportion.

The Soldier gets Meat every Day?
He gets Three Quarters of a Pound of Meat every Day; but at the Time it comes to him he has not more than Half a Pound, because that includes Bone and Waste of every Description.

Upon the whole is the Diet in the Workhouse much inferior to that of Soldiers who are upon their Rations?
I should say not, with the Exception of Meat.

Are the Soldiers Rations usually sufficient for them?
Perhaps hardly; there are Men in the Army who could eat more, undoubtedly.

Generally speaking, are the Soldiers satisfied?
Yes; they are satisfied generally.

And they can do their Duty well upon it?
Yes.

At the Time that you had this Riot with Sophia Booth, were you aware of any Penalty which would attach to you upon maltreating a Pauper?
I was aware so far that I should get myself into serious Trouble if I ill treated her without any Authority.

You knew the Terms of the Act of Parliament?
Yes.

Did she ever misbehave afterwards?
Never after this.

Her Conduct from that Time till she went out was good?
It was. She went out on the 24th of March.

How came she to go out?
Upon her own Application.

Did she take her Children with her?
Yes.

Did they come back?
Five; the Two eldest were kept out. She deserted the Five, and she was imprisoned; since her Imprisonment has expired she has been at large, and the Children are in the House.

Are the Guardians aware of that?
They are.

How long has it been the Case?
I think, to the best of my Recollection, she has been out of Prison Six Weeks.

Have any Steps been taken against her?
I cannot say that there have; I do not think that there have.

Have you represented the Case to the Board?
I have once or twice represented to the Board that the Woman is at large?

What is the Woman's Character?
I cannot say; I never knew the Woman till she came into the House.

Have you a School in the Workhouse?
We have.

Do the Children attend it constantly?
Three Hours in the Day.

Do they get on with the Schoolmaster?
They do, very well indeed.

Mr. J. Constable.

Comparing that School with a School in a Regiment, do they get on as well?
I should say quite as well.

Have you a Schoolmistress for the Girls?
Yes; the Schools are separate.

Have you ever had any Application from Persons out of the House to take Children as Servants? Have you placed out any Children as Servants?
Only One since I have been there; a Boy.

Is he doing well?
He is doing very well; he is placed with a Farmer.

Was he an Orphan?
He had a Mother living, but no Father.

Have none of the Children gone out of the Workhouse?
Not since I have been there, except this One Boy.

Do you cut their Hair close?
Very close.

Is that a general Rule?
It is a general Rule, so far that it is a particular Order of the Board; they have complained several Times, and said the Children's Hair was not cut close enough.

How close is it cut?
As close as it can be without shaving the Hair.

Do you cut the Hair of the Adults?
Of the able-bodied Men and the old Men, but not the old Women; the young Women we do, and we crop them pretty close. We have a Barber who attends the House once every Week, and he shaves the People, and cuts their Hair.

And that cutting of the Hair is done by Order of the Board?
Yes.

Have they ever resisted that?
They have objected to it sometimes, but not resisted. They make great Objections even to the Children's Hair being cut.

Do the Women object?
They do.

Is Cleanliness the principal Consideration on the Part of the Guardians who give that Order?
That is the Object, I believe.

Do you find them come in with very dirty Heads?
Very often.

Have you much Ringworm?
We have now Sixteen Cases of Ringworm; all those Cases we are obliged to keep separate.

Were those Cases brought into the House?
They were, at different Times.

And it is the Observation of Circumstances of that Kind that induces the Guardians to be so rigorous?
It is.

Have you had any People come in with the Itch?
Not many; we have had some few Cases; but they are never allowed to go into the House till they are examined by the Surgeon, and then they are put into a separate Place and cured.

And some with Vermin?
A great many.

Mr. J. Constable.

How many Inmates have you altogether in the House?
When I left, 142.

What where the Proportions of grown up and Children?
Out of the 142 I should say Three Parts were Children under Sixteen Years of Age.

And the rest were Men or Women?
There were more Women than Men at that Time; some few; the Difference is not much.

Do they vary in Winter and Summer?
The Proportions are very nearly the same; in Winter I believe there are generally more Men than Women.

Are there a greater Number now than there were when you were appointed?
Yes, rather more, but not very considerable; the Reason there are more is, that there were Two Workhouses when I was first appointed. Woodbridge Workhouse is now done away, and, consequently, all the old People are removed into our Workhouse.

Have you Room for any more?
We have Room for 350.

What is your Rule with regard to the Separation of Children from their Mothers; was Mrs. Booth allowed to see her Children?
Yes.

Was she allowed to talk to them at Dinner?
No, not at Dinner; but after Grace is said, and when the People have gone out of the Hall, they are allowed to speak to their Children; we generally keep Silence while Dinner is going on.

And the same Thing at Breakfast and Supper?
At all Meals.

So that they may have Communication with their Children after those Meals are over?
Yes.

For how long a Time?
They generally do not stop long; but at any Time of the Day, when they apply to see their Children, at seasonable Times, they can see them.

Suppose a Woman goes into the House with a Child Two Years old; do you separate that Child from its Mother?
Not till after they are Two Years old, and then they go into the Girls School-room; all young Children go there, whether they are Boys or Girls.

Who looks after them there?
The Schoolmistress, with the Assistance of the big Girls in the School.

Have you heard any Complaints upon that Subject from any of the Mothers who have come in?
No, I do not remember that I have.

You never objected to the Mothers seeing them at seasonable Hours?
I never did. At all seasonable Hours they are allowed to see their Children.

That is done by Direction of the Board?
It is by an Order from the Commissioners.

Have you any Hours during which Women are not allowed to see their Children?
Yes; during School Hours.

Any other Hours?
Any other Hours that the Children are not employed in the School the Mothers can see them.

Mr. J. Constable.

Is that Rule stuck up anywhere about the Workhouse?
It is.

So that the Paupers can see it?
Yes.

Where is it stuck up?
In the Hall where they dine.

And therefore, seeing that Order, they might make a Complaint if they were prevented from seeing their Children?
They might.

How often does your Visiting Committee come to the Workhouse?
Once a Week; on Friday.

Do any of the Guardians come at any other Times, on odd Days?
No, I do not remember that they do, except the Chairman.

Does he come?
He generally comes once a Week besides, and sometimes twice a Week.

Does he come on regular Days?
No, he comes on uncertain Days.

Have you a Chaplain?
Yes.

Does he come and visit you?
He comes generally twice a Week.

And upon uncertain Days?
Yes, except on Sunday. He comes every Sunday and reads Service; but on other Days we do not know when he will come.

How far is Nacton Workhouse from the Church?
Half a Mile.

Are the Paupers allowed to go to Church?
No.

Have you had any Dissenters in the House, and do the Ministers of the Dissenters come to see them?
I do not remember One since I have been in the House.

Has any Man in the House applied to be allowed to see a Dissenting Minister or a Roman Catholic?
Not one. I do not think we have had a Roman Catholic in the House.

Have you a Refractory Cell?
Yes.

Where is that?
At the End of the Building, as you go in.

What Sort of a Place is it?
Two Cells; One on each Side: One for Men and One for Women; quite separate.

With a Wall between them?
A little Passage between them.

What Sort of Place is it?
Completely dark, except through the Bars of the Doors. There are a few little Bars in the Doors, which shut; and that is the only Light that comes in; they are arched over.

There is Light?
Yes.

Have you a Dead House also?
Yes.

Where is that?
In the front Part of the Yard.

Not adjoining the Refractory Cell?
No.

Have you had Occasion to make use of the Refractory Cell?
No.

Have you the Book in which you enter the Punishments with you?
No, I have not.

Can you state how many, during the last Winter, from Michaelmas to March, were put into that Refractory Cell?
I do not remember any, except One, a Woman.

How long was she confined there?
Twelve Hours.

What was the Effect upon her?
I should say the Effect was good, because the Woman behaved herself very well afterwards.

What was her Offence?
She was refractory, and wanted to see her Husband, and endeavoured to force her Way into the Men's Apartment; and we had to take her away by Force, and lock her up; she disturbed the whole House.

What Time of Day was it?
After Service on the Sunday, in the Afternoon.

Are the Women in the House allowed at any particular Times to see their Husbands?
On some Occasions.

On what Occasions?
In Cases of Sickness, or Cases of domestic Concern; for instance, a Woman may want to see her Husband with regard to leaving the House.

Or to speak to each other about their Children?
Yes.

Do they frequently apply to you to be allowed to see each other?
Not frequently; generally once a Week; Sunday is appropriated generally for that Purpose, and they generally look to that Day to see their Husbands.

Why then would you not allow this Woman to see her Husband on that Day?
Because her Husband had previously begged of me not to let her see him. The Woman had been living in Adultery with another Man before she came into the House, and her Husband was in the House; and he begged of me, if his Wife wanted to see him in the House, not to let her see him.

She would not stand that?
No; and she wanted to force her Way into the Men's Yard.

Did you tell her that her Husband had desired that she might not be allowed to see him?
Yes, I did, but that was of no use.

After she had been in the Refractory Cell did she ever express a Wish to see her Husband again?
No; she went away the Day afterwards, but she was very quiet, and seemed sorry for what she had done.

Did the Husband remain?
He went out on the same Day.

Did they go together?
No; he went Half an Hour before she did; there was a Man who had employed the Husband before, and he came and took him out, and said he had Work for him.

And the Wife went out, and followed him?
Yes; when she had heard that he was gone she followed him.

Mr. J. Constable.

There had been no previous Arrangement between them?
No.

Did anybody come for her?
I cannot exactly say whether this Man that came for the Husband came for her also.

Do you know any thing of them since?
Yes.

Is the Woman gone to live with her Husband?
No; they still live separate. The Woman came to see a Brother of hers, who is in the House now, a Fortnight ago, and I allowed her to see him; and I asked her what had become of her Husband; she said they were still living separate; he was at work.

Was she living with another Man?
Yes; she acknowledged it.

Have you had frequent Complaints of Women not being allowed to see their Husbands?
No.

Have you had any?
Yes.

Have you ever had Application from Couples not to be allowed to see each other?
Never, except that One.

Have you any old Couples who live together in the House?
Not One.

Have you ever had them complain of the Separation of Husbands and Wives?
Yes; they complain very often.

Is that the old or the young who complain?
The young generally.

Is it more the Women or the Men?
The Women I should say are more troublesome in that Way; the Men never say any thing about it; and in general it is the Women who want to see their Husbands more than the Husbands to see their Wives.

Generally speaking, upon that as upon other Subjects, are the Men or the Women more troublesome to manage?
I should say in Winter the Men are, because in Winter we are generally crowded with able-bodied Men, and Men of bad Characters.

Men who come in with Families?
Some of them.

And some of them single Men?
Yes.

How many Winters have you been in the Workhouse?
Only One.

How long were you in the Army?
Twenty-six Years.

Are you a Suffolk Man?
No, I was born in Surrey; the principal Part of my Time, before I went into the Army, I lived in London. I went into the Army at Sixteen Years of Age.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Mr. JOHN MOORE is called in, and examined as follows: *Mr. John Moore.*

YOU are the Governor of the Workhouse of the Plomesgate Union?
Yes.

Where is it?
At Wickham Market.

Have you been in the Army?
No.

What were you before you were Governor of the Workhouse?
I had been a general Shopkeeper for several Years, and an Auctioneer.

When did you become Governor of the Workhouse?
On the 8th of May 1837.

Did you succeed Mr. Smith?
Yes; Mr. Smith left a few Days afterwards.

Mr. Smith had been Governor of Framlingham Castle?
Yes.

Have you had any Complaints of Diarrhœa, or any thing of that Sort, since you have had the Management of the Workhouse?
Yes, there have been Cases of Diarrhœa.

Many?
Not very many among the Children.

And of course a Medical Person has seen those Children under those Circumstances?
Yes, every Day.

In consequence of that did he order for those Children any Alteration in the Diet?
Yes; he ordered them Milk Diet and Rice.

Did they recover immediately upon the Change of Diet?
Very shortly after they did.

Have there been many Cases?
I think pretty well all the Children had the Diarrhœa.

Did the Doctor tell you to what he attributed that?
I heard nothing in reference to the Diet that I am aware of, only that the Children had better have Milk and Rice instead of Gruel in the Morning.

Have the grown up Persons complained of the Skilley?
They complain when they first come in, but they very soon like it very well; we hear no Complaint from those who are used to it.

It goes by the Name of Skilley?
Yes, they so call it; we call it Gruel.

How do you make it?
With Oatmeal; we are not limited as to the Quantity; we make it thick of only Oatmeal and Water.

You are limited to so many Pounds of Oatmeal, are you not?
No; we are not limited to the Quantity we use; we return what we do not want at the End of the Week.

It is good thick Gruel?
Yes.

Do they complain of being made to eat this Skilley?
When they first come in they frequently say, not being used to it, they do not like it.

How long does it take to get used to it?
A very few Days.

Mr. John Moore.

Do they ever complain of not having sufficient Food altogether?
Some complain of not having sufficient Food.

Do they complain of not having sufficient Food altogether, or of not having a Sufficiency of any particular Sort?
It is complained that they have not enough altogether.

Do they say they have not enough Bread?
Yes, they say they have not enough Bread.

Have you ever known any Cases where they did not consume all the Food that was given them?
Yes.

What became of that?
Sometimes they returned it, and sometimes they put it away.

Are they allowed to take it away?
The aged Men and aged Women have their Provisions sent up to them, and they do not consume all their Rations, and very often send some down; those who dine in the Hall, when they do not eat it all it is left upon the Table and taken into the Store.

Is that often the Case?
Not very often; sometimes it is the Case.

You have had no serious Sickness in the House since you were Master of it?
No; only the Cases of Diarhœa.

How have the People conducted themselves, generally?
The Inmates have conducted themselves well, generally.

Have you had any Occasion to punish them?
Occasionally we have, by putting them into the Refractory Cells.

Have you your Books here that you can refer to?
Yes; I have every Case reported.

Will you refer to your Books, and state how many you have had Occasion to put in the Cells since you have been Governor?
Having no Index it will be necessary to refer to every Week's Report in order to answer the Question.

Can you give a Notion, from your Recollection, how many Persons you have confined in the Refractory Cells; does it happen once in a Week that you are obliged to confine Persons in the Cell?
No, not more than once in a Month or Six Weeks; it is always stated in my Report to the Board.

Is it reported to the Board or the Visiting Committee?
It is read at the Board Room.

Has any Remark been made to you upon that Subject at any Time; have any of the Guardians observed that the Punishment was too great?
I have never had a Case of that Kind; the Board of Guardians have made no Remark to the Effect that it has been too severe.

They generally then may be taken to approve of the Punishment which you have thought it necessary to inflict?
I have never had a Case that the Board have not confirmed.

What is the Rule as to the Separation of Mothers and Children?
The Children that are over a Year old, and not old enough to be taken to the Schools, are kept in a Ward called the Nursery, under the Care of the Mother of One or Two, perhaps, and a Nurse is kept with them; and as there are frequent Changes, from Persons being discharged and others admitted, we frequently have Two or Three Women in the Nursery who are Mothers of some of the Children.

You take the Children One Year old from their Mothers?
If they are weaned; if not, we have not had a Case of compelling a Woman to wean her Child; and the Woman in that Case continues to suckle it.

Mr. John Moore.

How long is it the Practice for the Women in the Workhouse to nurse their Children at the Breast?

Till they are about a Year old; we seldom have any over a Year old; sometimes we have.

You separate them at the End of the Year, or when they are weaned?

When they are weaned they are put into the Nursery.

What Communication have the Mothers with them?

They see them generally every Day; always on a Monday they see them, and generally every Day in passing through the Court to their Work.

They never have the Children with them at all?

No; they are not permitted to have the Children with them, unless the Children are sick; then the Mothers are allowed to go and attend their own Children.

Do they dine all together in the Hall?

Yes; the Girls and Women dine together in the Hall, but not those little Children.

When the Mother is allowed to see her Child where does she go?

She is allowed to go into the Nursery.

For how long a Time?

For an Hour or Two Hours, if it is not her Days of Business,—for Work.

Is that in any Case of Sickness?

On the Day when a Mother is allowed to see her Child she is allowed that Time; at other Periods she is allowed a short Visit, not for any long Time.

Do they frequently apply to you to be allowed to see their Children?

Not very frequently.

You say One Day of the Week; is that One Day of the Week appointed for their seeing their Children?

Monday is the Visiting Day.

And they are allowed to see their Children for an Hour or Two on that Day?

Yes.

At other Times only upon special Applications?

Yes.

Are you in the habit of granting those freely?

We never denied a Case.

You are open to receive them, and never refuse them?

I never did.

They may see their Children at other Times?

They can hardly avoid seeing them when they pass from their Dining Room to their Work.

Is there any Time when they are positively forbidden to see their Children?

No. They are not considered to be at liberty to see them whenever they wish, because they are kept as a Class by themselves.

But when Application is made to you to be allowed to see them you never refuse them?

Never.

Have you heard any Complaints by Mothers of their not seeing their Children sufficiently?

I never heard any Complaints.

Is there great Complaint, on the part of the Women, of their being separated from their Husbands?

They sometimes complain of its being a Hardship; but they are allowed to see their Husbands at any Time on special Application—always on the Monday.

Mr. John Moore.

And you are in the habit of yielding to those Applications very freely?
Not of the Woman, unless the Husband requests to have an Interview; we do not take the Application of the Woman, but communicate it to the Husband; and if he desires it it takes place, if it is on special Business.

Why do you make that Difference between the Woman and Husband?
We have adopted that Practice because we have found sometimes that the Women were troublesome; Three or Four Applications would be made successively, when it would give us a great deal of Trouble, and therefore we have chosen to leave it to the Man to decide whether he has any Business to transact.

Have you found that in many Instances, when the Wives have applied to see their Husbands, the Husbands have declined seeing them?
I have sometimes found that to be the Case.

Have you found that to be the Case as often as the Man has consented to the Interview?
That being the known Practice, I have not had many Applications of the Kind; very few.

Have your Applications from the Women been more frequent than from the Men for those Interviews?
At one Time they were.

At what Time?
At the Beginning of the Winter, when the Numbers increased, perhaps Ten or Twelve were admitted in a Day. The Women would ask the next Day to see their Husbands, several of them, and then when I made the Communication to the Husbands, the Husbands, some of them, declared that they had no Business to transact; others desired to see their Wives, and their Wives were permitted to see them, and they were discharged in a Day or Two.

But if the Applications for Interviews have been more frequent than the Interviews, it is because the Husbands have desired not to see their Wives?
Yes, we have never had a Case of Refusal to permit them to have an Interview.

Do you inquire what is the Object of the Interview?
Yes, if it is not on the Visiting Day; if it is on the Visiting Day we make no Inquiry.

Is any one present at this Interview?
Either myself, or the Porter, or the Matron.

They cannot see each other but in the Presence of somebody?
No.

Supposing a Stranger came to see one of the Inmates, in what Way is he allowed to see him?
In a Room separate from the other Inmates, and in the Presence of one of the Officers of the Workhouse.

There is no Separation between the Person who comes to see the Inmate and the Inmate; they are in the same Room together?
Yes.

Are you at sufficient Distance to enable them to speak freely to each other?
At the Distance of from One End of the Dining Hall to the other, which is larger than this Room.

You make it a Rule to keep at that Distance?
Yes; I gave it out as a general Rule that those who are in the Room with the Parties conversing should take one End of the Hall and those Parties the other.

The Object of somebody being present is to prevent any improper Communication of Liquor or any thing of that Sort?
Yes.

Are

Mr. John Moore.

Are you quite sure that a young Man named Robert Wickes was never in the Workhouse in your Time?
I am quite sure he never was.

You have Two separate Refractory Cells, One for Men and One for Women?
Yes.

Have you a Dead House also?
Yes.

Whereabouts are the Refractory Cells; do they join each other?
They are in a Line in front of the House.

Where is the Dead House?
In a Line lying close to the Wall fronting the House.

Does the Dead House join the Refractory Cell?
Except One Cell, which is used for a Sand House.

There is a Cell between the Dead House and the Refractory Cell?
Yes.

What Sort of Place is the Refractory Cell?
It is a small square Room about 10 Feet square.

Entirely dark?
No; there is a Light over the Door.

So that they are not in total Darkness there?
No; there is a good Light over the Door.

What is the longest Time you have had Occasion to confine any Person in one of those Cells?
Twenty-four Hours in One or Two Cases, but seldom more than Three Hours.

In those Cases where they were confined Twenty-four Hours were they taken before the Magistrates?
No; the Question was brought before the Magistrates and they were discharged.

For what Offences was this Confinement of Twenty-four Hours?
For general Disobedience in the House and making a Noise, and committing an Assault upon the Porter.

Was the Reason that it was not carried before the Magistrate that the Parties became contrite in consequence of their Confinement?
Yes; they begged to be discharged, and promised that they would conduct themselves in a different Way if they were discharged.

Can you state what Effect the Confinement had upon them?
One Man has been in the House ever since, and has behaved very well ever since; the other Man behaved himself very well until he discharged himself, and he has not been in the House since.

Who is the Assistant Commissioner of your District?
Doctor Kay.

Are there any special Regulations under which your Workhouse is established, or are they all under the general Regulations of the Poor Law Commissioners?
Under the general Regulations.

Have you a Copy of them?
I have not.

Are you aware that in the Woodbridge Union they allowed the Children under Two Years of Age to remain with their Mothers?
No; I have no Knowledge of that.

Is that Order with respect to the Separation of Children when they are weaned, or at One Year old, stuck up anywhere in your Workhouse?
No, it is not.

Mr. John Moore.

Are those Regulations with respect to the Communication between Husband and Wife, and the Mothers and the Children, contained in any Rule that is exhibited in the Workhouse?

Yes; the Abstract of the Act and the Classification are framed and hung up in the most conspicuous Part of the Dining Hall.

And the Regulations with respect to Communication?
Yes.

Is there any thing in the Regulations as to the Visiting Day?
I do not think there is any Order of the Poor Law Commissioners upon the Subject; but it is an Order of the Board of Guardians upon which we act.

Have you a Copy of the Orders of the Board of Guardians?
No; it is in the Minute Book kept by the Clerk of the Union.

Have you no printed Rules?
No; the Rules and Regulations by which the House is governed issuing from the Poor Law Commissioners are printed.

Have you no printed Rules of the Board of Guardians?
Yes; a Copy of the Rules and Regulations which relate to the Management of the Workhouse is printed and framed and hung up in the Dining Hall.

Can you find, among the Commissioners Regulations, those Rules and Regulations which you have stated are in practice in the Workhouse with regard to visiting?
No; I have not seen any thing of the Kind in those Orders; it is an Order of the Board (Two Days we used to have) that One Day for visiting should be allowed from One to Four.

Is it an Order of the Board of Guardians that the Husband is never to see his Wife except in the Presence of a Third Party?
Yes.

Is that stuck up in the Workhouse?
No, it is not.

The same with regard to visiting the Children; that depends upon the Board of Guardians?
Yes.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Mr. James Smith.

Mr. JAMES SMITH is called in, and examined as follows?

YOU are now a Tradesman, living in Mount Street?
I am.

Were you Governor of the Workhouse at Framlingham?
Yes.

Do you remember a young Man of the Name of Robert Wickes coming to the Workhouse?
I have a slight Recollection of him; but he could not have been in very long, or I must have recollected him more particularly, I think.

Do you remember any Persons of the Name of Airey?
Yes.

When was it?
I cannot recollect.

Upon what Footing were you the Governor of the Workhouse; were you merely Servant of the Parish, or did you contract for the keeping of the Persons in the Workhouse?
I was appointed on the Union being formed.

Mr. James Smith.

It was under the new Poor Law that you were appointed?
Yes; it was a Parish Workhouse before, and immediately the Poor Law Commissioners took it up I was appointed to it, but the Arrangements did not immediately take place.

There was no Alteration in the Management from what it had been previously?
The Alteration did not take place immediately; some little Arrangements were necessary before they could take place; a Fortnight elapsed.

When the new Arrangements took place were they very different from those which preceded them?
In some Instances.

With respect to Diet?
Yes; there was a Difference.

Can you explain in what respect the Diet of former Times differed from that under the new Law?
For Breakfast they used to have skimmed Milk, mixed with Water, with about Two or Three Half Pints of Groats put in and boiled together, with Bread. Under the new Regulations I found that I could not at all Times get this Milk; we were very irregularly supplied, and I applied to the Board to allow me to get Oatmeal. I knew it was an Article in use in the London Houses; I had seen it used myself, though it was not known in that County at all. They granted me Permission to get it, and I made Gruel.

In any other respect was there any Difference?
Yes. I will now go to the Dinner: it differed only thus, in a little different Arrangement of the Days; but we gave them Beef once a Week, whereas they had before Pork twice, and we gave them Beef once a Week and Soup, so that there was a little Advantage in the Change for the Benefit of the Paupers.

The common People called this Oatmeal Skilley?
That was a Term some of them made use of.

In consequence of the Introduction of the Oatmeal Porridge was there any Sickness in the House?
No, I am not aware of any.

No Diarrhœa?
There was a Complaint made once of that Kind, and the Medical Officer attended to it, and ordered baked Flour to be used; that was done for a short Time, and then all the Diarrhœa was done away with.

You had no Cases of Death from Diarrhœa?
None.

Or any very serious Disease?
No; nothing worth mentioning, I should say myself.

Were you Master of the Workhouse before the Act was in operation in that District?
No.

Were you Master before the new Regulations for the Workhouse were adopted?
Yes, about a Fortnight.

How did the People conduct themselves in the Workhouse?
I found them generally obedient under my System. I used them as mildly and kindly as possible, and generally, though they came in sometimes turbulent and refractory, I soon found, by a little Reasoning and appealing to their Feelings, that I could manage them very easily.

Do you remember the Aireys making any Complaint?
One of the Aireys, George Airey, I think, was a little refractory and troublesome. This is some Time ago. I cannot speak with any degree of Accuracy upon it.

Mr. James Smith.

Did the Separation between the Man and his Wife, and between the Parents and the Children, take place in your Time?
Yes.

Had that been previously the Case?
No.

Was there a great Sensation made among them when that Separation took place?
No; I found that I managed it very easily. I expected to meet with Difficulties, from what I heard of other Places, but I got over it all without any Trouble whatever.

You heard of the State in which the Workhouse was previous to your taking charge of it, and from those Accounts did it appear to you that the Workhouse went on as well as it did before?
Much better, I should say.

Did you understand that before that there was a great deal of Uneasiness and Disorder in the House?
I never heard of any particular Disorder. I believe the Parish Governor whom I succeeded was a Man of rather irritable Disposition, and would, not being very sober, cause Excitement, and that when he need not have done it.

But it was by no means as quiet as it was after it came under those Regulations?
After it came under the new Regulations I found it perfectly quiet, with the Exception, as I observed before, of young Men coming in disposed, as I was given to understand,—they did say they would have a Bit of a Row, but I soon found that I quieted their Feelings by treating them mildly and reasoning with them.

Do you know any thing of the Circumstances of this George Airey?
No; I do not remember much about him.

Used the People's Hair to be cut in the Workhouse before you took charge of it?
No, not generally.

Afterwards was that the Regulation?
Afterwards the Hair Cutter came once a Week and cut their Hair as they wanted it.

Was the Hair cut quite close?
No; the Boys Hair we kept rather close, but the Men's Hair was cut as they usually had it cut themselves.

Did the young Women have their Hair cut?
With respect to the young Women that was an Obstacle; they came in unfortunately sometimes dirty, and I would wish them to have their Hair cut, but they made Objections, and I never enforced it.

Do you mean merely dirty, or with Vermin?
With Vermin; and unfortunately the Mothers would let their Children's Hair grow to a great Length, and not having the Means of keeping it clean it got dirty, but those we insisted upon having properly cut; but with young Women there was a Feeling against it, and I did not enforce the Regulation. I believe I had the Feeling of the Board with me upon it, that they thought it best not.

But it was very inconvenient, the Hair of those young Women not being cut who had Vermin?
Undoubtedly; it would have been best if it had been cut, but there was a Feeling against it, and we did not press it.

In what Sort of State was the House; in a dilapidated State?
No.

Did the Rain come into any of the Rooms?
No, except in Winter Weather, as it will into many Houses.

Mr. James Smith.

It did not come raining upon the Beds?
No, certainly not.

So that if any body has said so that is an Exaggeration?
Most decidedly.

If it came through any Part of the Roof or Walls that were susceptible of Repair, you had it done?
Immediately. The House went under an entire Alteration while I was there; it was very inconvenient for carrying out the Classification; indeed it could not be done. The Board of Guardians expended a considerable Sum for the Purpose of doing that.

Did you find any Difficulty in carrying the Classification into effect in separating the Men from their Wives?
No. I think I ought not to complain at all about that; I did it very easily. I said to them always, "Though I am obliged to put you where you are, you shall see each other as often as you please;" and they did see each other every Day, and several Times a Day.

Had you Directions that they should be allowed to see each other at certain Times of the Week?
No; the Board of Guardians had Confidence in me to take the Management of that, and I did it, I believe, to their entire Satisfaction. I thought it best, being there to administer that Part of the Law, to do it as leniently as I possibly could.

With respect to the Separation of the Children from the Mothers, was there any Regulation as to the Time at which the Children were to be taken from them?
No; we put the Girls with their Mothers, and the Boys with their Fathers, except the young ones; if they were very young, then they were all with the Mothers. The Children at that Time were not separated from their Parents; only the Men from their Wives.

Do you know what was the Diet Table?
No. 3.

Have you ever heard any Complaints that they had not enough to eat?
Yes; they would complain that they had not enough to eat; they would complain frequently of the Gruel, but I generally found that they would eat all that was given to them. A Pint and a Half was the Quantity we used to give out, but the Basins held a little more, and I always made a point of filling them, and attended to the making of it, and made it good.

From your own Observation should you say that the People suffered in their Health and grew thin, or got fat, upon the Diet they had in the House?
I should say they rather improved than got worse. An Observation I have frequently heard them make when their Friends have come to see them,—and perhaps their Feelings have been tried when they have come to the House,—is, "You need not fret about me; we have a Bit of something Three or Four Times a Day, and are doing very well here."

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

J. P. Kay, M.D.

JAMES PHILLIPS KAY, M.D., is called in, and further examined as follows:

ARE you aware of the Rules made by the Boards of Guardians of the Wickham Market Union and the Woodbridge Union with respect to their Workhouses?
I think I am generally; but there may be some special Points with which I may not possibly be acquainted, as Boards of Guardians from Time to Time alter their Rules, and the only Means that I have of becoming cognizant of certain of them is from practically examining the Workhouses. It is also possible

J. P. Kay, M.D.

sible that certain slight Practices in the Workhouses might escape my Observation in visiting them.

Do you recommend to the Boards of Guardians the Adoption of any Rules with respect to the Separation of Children from their Mothers, or of the Opportunities of Communication between Husbands and Wives, in the Workhouses?

The Regulation as to the Children in the Workhouses, or rather the Practice in the Workhouses, which I have generally recommended with respect to the Children, has been as follows, that all the young Children should be allowed to sleep with their Mothers at Night.

Up to what Age?

Under Two or Three Years of Age, with no particular Restriction as to Age.

Children in the Seventh Class, or in what Class?

The Seventh Class comprehends Children under Seven, I mean that the younger Children of that Class, and without any particular Restriction as to Age, should be permitted to sleep with their Mothers at Night, and whenever the Mothers were not absolutely required for the Work of the House, that they should be allowed to be with them during the Day, and that the Mothers should be allowed to have Communication with the Children above Seven Years of Age at all convenient Seasons, whenever they made a Request to the Master of the Workhouse. I am aware that certain of the Boards of Guardians have been led to establish a Nursery in the Workhouse, something like an Infant School, finding that Children from the Age of Three or Four to Seven, if not amused and carefully nursed by Persons provided for that Purpose, produce more Disquiet in the House than is desirable, and are themselves more liable to Disease. I think, however, that is not done in more than Two or Three Unions; but they are generally with their Mothers at the earlier Ages.

Are you aware that in the Workhouse at Wickham Market they have a Rule by which they separate the Child when it is weaned, or One Year old, from its Mother?

The Master of the Workhouse has just made me aware of it; and he informs me that this arose from his own Recommendation to the Board, considering that it would be more convenient to have such a Regulation than to have the Children constantly with their Mothers. I must say that if I had known of it I should have remonstrated with the Board concerning it, because I think the Children under Three Years of Age should sleep with their Mothers; and I am quite certain that no such Regulation of separating young Children from their Mothers, except while they are employed in the domestic Work of the House, does obtain in the Unions in Norfolk or Suffolk. When I say that I am positive that it does not occur, I mean that I have never observed it, and if I had I should immediately have remonstrated with the Board.

Your Evidence now applies to Class 7?

My Evidence now applies to rather the youngest Children, to the Children under Four or Five Years of Age.

In the Recommendation which you have given do you confine it exclusively to the Seventh Class?

The Advice which I have given to the Board of Guardians has been, first of all, as respects the Children in the Seventh Class, that the Children of tender Years should be permitted to sleep with their Mothers, and to be with their Mothers during the Day-time, except when it was absolutely necessary that their Mothers should be employed in the domestic Services of the House; and as respects all the other Classes of Children, that the Parents should be permitted to have Intercourse with their Children at all reasonable Periods; and I further, particularly in the Instances of the Woodbridge and Plomesgate Unions, admonished the Masters, that whenever a Husband or a Wife on reasonable Grounds, such as the Sickness of the Husband or the Wife, or the Illness of the Child, or any Matter of domestic Concern to the Family, or a Desire to consult with each other with respect to leaving the House, solicited an Interview, that they should be permitted to have that Interview, in the Manner in which all Interviews occur in the Workhouse, in the Presence of the Master or Matron. And I am prepared to state to your Lordships that upon Communication with the Com-

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Commissioners upon the Subject, I have found this Arrangement to be completely consistent with their Views of the Principles of their Regulations, and that these were not deemed Breaches of the Principle of Classification, but that they were only such Deviations from the Letter of the Regulation as were absolutely admitted in the Order; in illustration of which I must refer your Lordships to the Questions that are directed to be put by the Visiting Committee, in which the following Question occurs: "Is the Separation of all the various Classes within the Workhouse strictly enforced at all Times; state Particulars of every Instance of Deviation from the Rules in this respect, if such shall have occurred? And the particular Attention of the Visiting Committee is directed to this very important Point of Discipline"; by which it appears that certain Deviations are to be permitted, but they are to be reported; and it is plain therefore that the Report is made to the Visiting Committee for the Purpose of the right Regulation of those Exceptions to the Letter of the Commissioners Rules. Taking that Interpretation of the Rules, not only have Interviews been allowed between the Parents and Children, but between Man and Wife, on such Occasions as I have attempted to describe.

Do you know of such a Regulation as a particular Day being set apart for the Interviews between Mothers and their Children and Husbands and Wives, which is called a Visiting Day?

As respects the Visitation of Friends of Paupers, certain of the Boards of Guardians have limited that to particular Days, but I have generally stated that, (unless in large Towns where it would be an Inconvenience to the Master of the Workhouse that the Routine of the Establishment should be disturbed at any Hour at the Discretion of Parties living out of the House,) it is better that there should be no Restriction as to the Day or Hour of the Visitation of the Friends of Paupers; nevertheless certain Boards of Guardians have limited that Visitation to certain Days in the Week, but as respects the Visitation within the Workhouse, there have been no special Days appointed, and I believe that the Visitations between Children and Parents occur from Time to Time.

Then any Board of Guardians that has made such a Rule has made it without your Knowledge and Concurrence?

I think I may state that in my District I have sufficient Knowledge of what does occur to assert that no Day has been appointed.

When you speak of the Communication allowed between Husband and Wife, you state that it is allowed to take place always in the Presence of somebody belonging to the Workhouse?

I am not aware that it is allowed to take place except in the Presence of somebody belonging to the Workhouse.

Upon what Principle is it that you insist upon the Presence of a Third Party in those Communications between Man and Wife?

In the Communications of the Friends of Paupers the Commissioners Regulations require the Presence of the Master or Matron.

In the Case of the Friends of Paupers that is done to prevent any improper Admission of Liquor from out of Doors into the Workhouse; but with respect to the Pauper and his Wife, they being both in the Workhouse, although in separate Apartments, and wishing to have Communication on Business Affairs, why is it necessary that a Third Party should be present in the Room?

I apprehend that the Commissioners Regulations as to Classification do not admit of a Breach of the Classification but as an Exception to the Rule, and for Purposes of Communication with respect to the Affairs of the Family, in which it is desirable that such Communication should occur; but if it were permitted out of the Presence of the Master or Matron of the Workhouse, I think that I personally should have deviated from the Views held by the Poor Law Commissioners respecting Workhouse Regulation if I had sanctioned that.

Can you state the Principle upon which the Poor Law Commissioners have made that Regulation; not speaking of the Communication of Persons out of the Workhouse with any body in it, but of the Communication between the Pauper and his Wife, they both being in the Workhouse, although in separate Parts of it, and wishing to communicate upon private Affairs?

I do not know that the Commissioners have made any Regulation upon the Subject;

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Subject; but the Custom has obtained the Sanction of the Commissioners, I believe, upon the Ground that it is necessary that some Regulation of this Intercourse should occur; and I hope and believe that it practically does occur in such a Way as to allow the freest Communication between the Man and his Wife which is consistent with the Prevention of Abuses.

If such free Communication does not take place it is without your Knowledge and Sanction?

My Attention has been more particularly directed to this Subject of late, and in all the Communications which I have on that Account considered it necessary to make to the Boards of Guardians, or to the Chairmen of Unions, I have requested that such Interviews should be permitted to take place in the Manner described to the Committee. If in any Instances they are not permitted to take place in that Manner, I should think it my Duty to take immediate Steps for procuring the Establishment of that Custom, and I am not aware of any Instances in which it does not occur.

Then it is without your Knowledge and Sanction if it does not occur?

Certainly.

Mr. John Moore.

Mr. JOHN MOORE is again called in, and further examined as follows:

You stated to the Committee that by the Regulation of the Board of Guardians of the Wickham Market Union Children were taken from their Mothers at One Year old, or when they were weaned; and you also stated that the Mothers were not allowed to have Communication with the Children except upon especial Application, or upon the Monday from One o'Clock to Four, which you called the Visiting Day; is that so?

They are never refused; they are always allowed to see each other whenever they request it.

They have no Interview with the Children except upon special Application to see the Children?

No; the Children are a Class by themselves; the Mothers do not go of their own Accord.

They are obliged to make a special Application on every other Day of the Week except the Monday before they can see their Children?

Yes.

Then, with respect to the Man and the Wife, they are allowed to see each other upon the Visiting Day from One till Four for a certain Space of Time?

Yes; the Time is unlimited from One till Four; they may be there all the Time if it is necessary.

And on the other Days how are they allowed to see each other?

At any Time that an Application is made by the Husband to see his Wife in the Presence of a Third Person.

On the Monday from One to Four is the Interview in the Presence of a Third Person?

Yes, always. The Children were never taken into the Nursery Ward till the 17th of February 1838, and then in consequence of my own Application to the Board.

Do you mean the Children under One Year old?

Yes. They have now become a Class of themselves; the Application was made to the Board by myself in order that they might be better fed and better taken care of.

Then, previous to that were they allowed to remain a longer Time with their Mothers than they are now?

Previous to that they were with their Mothers till they were old enough to go to School.

But you made a special Application to the Board, and in consequence of that they took them away from their Mothers at One Year old and upwards and put them into the Nursery Ward?

Yes.

Mr. John Moore.
J. P. Kay, M.D.

You say, that the Husbands and Wives always see one another in the Presence of a Third Person; is that Person so near as to overhear all their Conversation?

No; the Understanding is, that the Officer who is in attendance takes One End of the Dining Hall and the Inmates the other, only so as to prevent any improper Conversation or any Conveyance of forbidden Goods.

This is for some Time from One to Four?
Yes.

The Officer is in the Room all the Time?
Yes.

Then he is looking over his Books or doing his own Business; he is not merely watching the Parties, is he?
No; not entirely.

So that they may have Conversation without his being privy to what they say; his Presence only prevents any improper Communication or Delivery of improper Articles?
Yes; they have an Opportunity of making Communication without his hearing it.

(*To Dr. Kay.*) Were you aware of the Regulations of the Board as to the Removal of Children into the Nursery, separating them from their Parents?
Certainly not; and as I have been very much engaged in the Organization of certain of the Establishments for Children belonging to the London Unions during the last Two Months, I believe I have not visited the Union since the Period when this Rule was established.

Were you aware of the Difference in the Restriction on the Monday from the Restriction on the other Days?
I was not; I imagine that this is a recent Regulation, or that I should have become acquainted with it, which I do not remember. I am only aware of having communicated to Mr. Moore personally and to the Vice-Chairman of the Union my Wish that on all proper Occasions Intercourse should be allowed between the Parents and the Children, and between the Man and the Wife.

The Witnesses are directed to withdraw.

Major General Johnson, M.P.

Major General JOHNSON, a Member of the House of Commons, attending, is further examined as follows:

WHAT is it you wish to correct in your Evidence?
Respecting the Number of Men who have made Application to the Board of Guardians. I find that I was in Error as to the Fact of the Persons themselves having made Application.

You mean at Bourn?
Yes; though the Substance is very much the same; for I find that only a few of the Men made Application; and they mentioned to those on the Outside that there was no use in going in; that the Decision of their Case was the same for all; they could do nothing for them. But the Fact of the Number of Persons who received Relief I believe to be pretty accurate; at least the Number I am given to understand was Thirty-three.

The Witness withdraws.

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned to Tuesday next, Twelve o'Clock.

Die Martis, 12° *Junii* 1838.

The Lord WHARNCLIFFE in the Chair.

Mr. ROBERT UNDERDOWN is called in, and examined as follows:

YOU are Clerk to the Board of Guardians of the Bridgwater Union?
I am.

How long have you been Clerk there?
From the Formation of the Union.

Are you a Solicitor?
I am not.

Have you brought your Books with you containing the Proceedings of the Board?
I have not brought my Books; I was not desired to bring them.

Have you any Extracts with regard to the Appointment of the Medical Officers of the Union?
I have some Extracts; I have made some Remarks on the Margin of the Medical Pamphlet.

You have not the Proceedings of the Board with you?
No; I thought they would be wanted during my Absence, and there was nothing said in the Summons as to their being required; I believe I have furnished every thing which has been required.

Can you give the Committee the Names of the Medical Officers appointed the first Year after the Union was arranged at Bridgwater, and state who had charge of the several Districts, with their Salaries?
I can; Mr. Abraham King for the Bridgwater District, at a Salary of 100*l.* a Year.

Can you state the Population of that District?
The District is 8,833. The next was Mr. William Lakin Caswell for Huntspill District, for a Population of 3,654, with a Salary of 50*l.* a Year.

What is the extreme Length of Mr. King's District?
I should think the greatest Distance was not above Four Miles from his own Residence.

What Size is Huntspill?
I am not so well acquainted with that; but the District is not, I believe, large.

Probably not much larger than the Bridgwater?
I suppose it is rather more extensive.

What was the next?
The next was Polden Hill District. Mr. Baruch Toogood was appointed at a Salary of 50*l.* a Year; the Population was 3,697.

Which was the next?
The Middlezoy District; Mr. Joseph Addison was appointed to that at a Salary of 35*l.* a Year; the Population 2,560. The North Petherton, Mr. Horatio Nelson Tilsley at a Salary of 63*l.* a Year; the Population 4,967. The Cannington District contains 3,041; Mr. John Evered Poole was appointed at a Salary of 35*l.* In the Stowey District Mr. Richard Beadon Ruddock at 25*l.* a Year; the Population 1,808.

Mr. R. Underdown.

Besides that they were allowed 10*s.* for every Case of Midwifery attended by an Order from the Relieving Officer or other competent Authority; were they not?
Yes.

In any of those Districts was there a greater Distance for a Person to travel than there was in the Bridgwater and Huntspill?
In the Polden Hill District the Medical Officer lived at a considerable Distance. It was not too large a District, as I believe, provided the Medical Officer had lived within it; and I think the whole of them were moderate.

Where did he live?
At Bridgwater.

How far is that from this District?
I should think Ten Miles to Ashcott, which, I believe, is the further Point; it may be Ten or Eleven Miles.

How far was the nearest Point to Bridgwater?
I should think the nearest would be about Six Miles; but I am not quite certain as to the Distance.

Are they bad Roads, or good?
They are Turnpike Roads.

After these Persons had served those Districts as Medical Officers the first Year, there was some Complaint, on their Part, that the Salaries were not sufficient, was not there?
Notice was given to the Medical Officers to attend, to know whether they had any thing to say as to the past Year; they did attend, but made no Complaint of any Consequence.

Did not they subsequently write?
I wrote to them previously, and they attended the Board.

They said nothing to the Board?
No, not relative to the Amount of Salary.

After that, did they write?
They did.

How long after that Time?
I do not recollect. As far as I recollect, the Board divided the Districts into Nine at that Time, and ordered Advertisements to issue for Medical Officers. I think it was at that Time.

Were they present during the Discussion with respect to the new Division of the Districts?
They were called in before the Board, those who attended.

They made no Objection?
No, they made no Objection.

Subsequently to that they wrote a Letter?
Yes.

When was the Meeting at which the Division took place?
On the 18th of May.

What was the Date of the Letter received from those Gentlemen, and which was written after that Day?
The Letter bore no Date.

On what Day was it received by the Board?
It was received the following Week after the 18th of May; I suppose it was the 2d of June; it was on the Thursday. I see the Notice is dated the 22d of May 1837.

In that Letter they declined taking upon themselves the Districts at the Salaries they had had?
Yes, they did.

Mr. R. Underdown.

In consequence of that Letter of those Medical Persons was there any Answer written to them?
There was no Answer written to them.

Was that laid before the Board by you?
It was brought before the Board by a Man from the Poorhouse of the Name of William Gill; it came in rather a dirty State. The Chairman said, "Where did that Letter come from?" and it was said, "It came from Mr. Parker;" not one of the Medical Officers, but a Medical Man in the Town.

Mr. Thomas Coles Parker?
Yes; the Man stated that the Letter came from his House.

Did the Chairman open it?
Yes; and it was read to the Board.

When it was read to the Board, what Determination did the Board come to; or did the Board come to any?
They came to no Determination at all. It was attended by a Declaration of many of the Medical Men in the Town and Neighbourhood.

There was no Notice taken of the Letter?
No.

Was the Receipt of the Letter mentioned in the Minutes?
It was, I believe.

Are you sure that it was mentioned in the Minutes?
I am not.

Did the Board proceed to advertise to obtain Medical Men for those Districts immediately?
They ordered the Second Advertisement on the 16th of June.

Without taking notice of this Letter?
They said they could make no Arrangement until the Time was up for the Advertisement previously issued; they considered they were bound to wait; they had advertised previously.

As they had called those Persons to a previous Meeting, and had stated to them their Intention of altering the Districts and altering the Salaries, did they on that Occasion refuse to take the Districts at those Sums?
At the Time they were summoned to give Information to the Board they said nothing as to the past Year; they made no Complaint whatever, except that they were not properly paid for Midwifery Cases.

Were they informed that the Board intended to alter the Districts, and the Salaries attached to those Districts?
They were made acquainted of it by a Letter sent them.

A Letter summoning them to come to the Board?
Yes; but they did not alter the Districts according to the Plan laid down in those Letters; the Districts were not arranged in the same Way as the Letter I sent to them proposed.

The Letter you sent to them, summoning them to come before the Board, contains an Arrangement of the Districts different from the Plan proposed to them, and different from the original Plan?
Yes.

You say that, previous to the Receipt of this Letter, an Advertisement was put out, arranging the Districts differently, and putting other Salaries to them?
The Letter received from the Medical Officers was in consequence of the Advertisement previously issued.

The Guardians did not wait to know how far the existing Medical Officers would accept of the new Districts, with the new Salaries, before they advertised?
No.

Mr. R. Underdown.

After the Receipt of that first Letter the Board received another Letter from those Gentlemen?
They received another Letter the subsequent Week.

That had a Date to it, had not it?
That was dated the 6th of June.

The Medical Officers in that Letter offered, in order to prevent the Poor suffering by the Delay consequent on the Course taken by the Board of Guardians, to continue their professional Attendance on the Poor gratuitously till some other Arrangement should be made?
Yes.

There was an Answer sent to that Letter signed by you on behalf of the Board; was there not?
Yes; dated the 9th of June.

Did the Board accept of that Offer on the Part of the Medical Officers?
The Board did not accept that Offer.

There was a subsequent Offer then, on the Part of the Medical Officers, to take charge of the Districts at a certain Price per Head; was not there?
Yes; there were Letters sent to that Effect.

Did they offer to take the Charge of the Districts marked 2, 6, 7, 8 at 4*d.* a Head, No. 5. at $3\frac{3}{4}d.$, and the Bridgwater District at 3*d.*, on the gross Population of 1832?
Yes.

And the Union House, which is intended to contain 300 People, at 50*l.* a Year?
Yes.

Have you ever taken the Trouble to calculate what the respective Salaries of those Gentlemen would have been at that Rate?
No, I have not.

Did the Board make a Calculation?
The Board did at the Time.

You have not got that with you?
No; there was no Minute made of it; the individual Guardians made it out at that Time.

You cannot, from any Calculation you have made, state what the Increase would have been upon their Salaries?
No, I cannot.

Upon the Receipt of that Offer on the Part of those Medical Men what did the Board do?
The Board rejected their Offers, and ordered Advertisements to issue.

Did they give any Answer to this new Proposal on the Part of the Medical Men?
Not any written Answer; they attended personally; a Message was sent to them that the Board would not accept that Offer.

Did you convey that Message?
No, I did not.

Then they proceeded immediately to elect the Medical Gentlemen?
No Election took place at that Time; the Election took place for Districts No. 3. and 4. on the 16th of June, and not on the 23d, the Date of Medical Officers Tenders.

There were some fresh Advertisements directed to be put into the London and Provincial Papers in consequence of that; were not there?
Yes.

How many Persons were chosen at that Time for the Districts?
No Election took place at this Time. Mr. Young and Mr. Phillips were elected on the 16th of June.

Mr. R. Underdown.

Is Mr. Young a Medical Practitioner resident at Bridgwater?
He is resident at Ashcott in the Hill District.

What aged Man is he?
I should think he is about Thirty.

Has he been long practising there?
Not long, I believe.

How long?
I do not know; I did not know him previous to that Time.

You do not know how long he has been practising there?
No.

How long had the Gentleman who took the Polden Hill District been in Practice?
I think Mr. Phillips had been long in Practice.

Where does he live?
He lives about Polden Hill, in the District he took.

There were some Arrangements made with those Medical Persons, that, until Medical Persons were engaged upon Contract in that Way, they were to attend and have their Bills paid as for other Patients?
There was something of that Kind took place.

Was there any Minute of that Kind made by the Board?
There was.

It stands in the Minutes of the Board?
Yes.

Were not the Medical Officers afterwards directed to attend, and told that they should be paid as for other Patients?
They were.

In consequence of that they brought in their Bill afterwards?
Yes.

The Bills, when brought in by them, were disputed by the Board?
They were.

There has been an Action at Law upon the Subject; has there not?
Yes.

Did all the Surgeons bring Actions for the Amount of their Bills?
Mr. Poole brought an Action against the Board, Mr. Caswell, and Mr. Ruddock.

Those Actions were tried at the Assizes?
One of the Actions, Mr. Poole's, was tried.

Did he obtain a Verdict?
He did; not for the full Amount of his Demand; he recovered 10*l.* short of his whole Demand.

What was his whole Demand?
Somewhere about 40*l.*

Was there any Tender made?
He was offered to leave it to Reference.

For how many Months did he attend in that Way?
About Twenty or Twenty-one Days.

What was his Salary for the whole Year, under his original Contract?
His Salary for the whole Year was 35*l.* for the first Year.

He obtained a Verdict, for Three Weeks Attendance upon the Poor, for 30*l.*?
He obtained a Verdict for less than his whole Demand; I do not recollect what was the exact Amount of his previous Demand.

Mr. R. Underdown.

Have they been all settled with now?
Yes, they have.

What was the whole Amount of their Bills, taken together?
About 248*l.*, as I believe. Mr. King, for No. 1. District, was somewhere about 70*l.*

What has he received?
I think he received about 40*l.*, and has since received an additional Sum to that; I think there was a Deduction of about Twenty-five per Cent. off the general Charge.

Was that the general Rule applied to all the Bills?
After the Decision of the Court at the Assizes with respect to Mr. Poole's Bill the Reduction was about Twenty-five per Cent. Mr. Ruddock's Bill came before the Board a few Weeks after that, and they agreed to settle with him in the same Proportion. Mr. King's had been settled by Reference, and he had not received so large an Amount as that the Board agreed he should receive in the same Proportion. Mr. Caswell for 93*l.* agreed to receive 40*l.*; and the other Two Medical Officers, Mr. King and Mr. Addison, were paid the full Amount of their Demands. The disputed Bills were paid in the Proportion of a Deduction of Twenty-five per Cent., with the Exception of Mr. Caswell.

For what Period of Service was this?
I think Twenty Days.

They received more for Three Weeks than they were to be paid the whole Year?
Yes.

Did this Sum include Cases of Midwifery?
They were always paid every Board Day as they occurred; they were not included.

Were there any fractured Limbs, or any thing of that Kind?
Not that I am aware of.

The Jury gave more than Double what you had agreed to give to the Medical Officers?
I think about Double.

The Jury gave a greater Amount than was ever known to be realized by any Medical Man in that Country?
Yes.

One of those Gentlemen received 30*l.* for Three Weeks; that would bring him in a Professional Income, if he could sustain it, in respect of his other Business, of nearly 4,000*l.* a Year; would it not?
Yes, I believe it would.

Did you ever hear of any Medical Man in that Part making any thing like that?
No (meaning Parochial Business).

Or 2,000*l.* a Year?
No, not by Parochial Business.

The Board considered it too much for the Duty performed?
The Board considered it was too much for the Duty performed.

How do you know the Profits of any of those Gentlemen?
I know nothing of their Profits; I thought the Reference was to the Salaries given them for Parochial Purposes.

How do you know what Profit they made upon their Parochial Attendance?
I was Assistant Overseer of the Bridgwater Parish for Eight Years, and I know what the Medical Man who had the Care of that Parish had at that Time.

Was it done under Contract during that Time?
It was.

Mr. R. Underdown.

Was the Charge they made greater than that they made to their general Patients?
I cannot say.

How can you tell what the Amount of their Receipts for their professional Attendance was?
I am not aware of what it was.

How do you know what their other Business was, so as to be able to give the Answer that if they were paid for all their other Practice at the same Rate they would get 4,000*l.* a Year?
I heard that named at the Assizes.

Perhaps it was by the Counsel?
Yes; and I have heard it named at the Board.

During the Three Weeks those Gentlemen were employed was there any very serious Illness?
I believe Sickness did prevail.

To any greater Extent than common?
I really cannot answer that Question.

Do you recollect at what Time of the Year it was?
It was in July.

Was there a great deal of Sickness prevailing at that Time?
I have heard from the Medical Officers that there was.

Was there any Fever?
I cannot say.

Those Medical Men were employed by Tender, were not they?
There was One Advertisement issued for Tenders.

Bidding against each other?
No Election took place by Tender, and no Offers were made but by the Medical Men in Office in the Union.

You took the Man who offered to take the Business for the least Sum, without at all knowing what his Skill was?
The old Medical Gentlemen offered Tenders, I think, on that Occasion, and no other Person, as I believe. Messrs. Young and Phillips were appointed the Week before.

Were not there several appointed by Tender?
No.

Did you know any thing about their Skill?
I did not.

Were they not taken because their Tenders were the lowest, without any Knowledge of their Skill?
I cannot say that.

Some of them are called "Licensed to practise"; are they regular Apothecaries or Surgeons?
I believe the Law recognizes those Gentlemen as Surgeons.

Do you not mean something different from regular Surgeons or Apothecaries; the Members of the Apothecaries or Surgeons Company?
I did not think that necessary if they had practised previous to a certain Date.

Those Medical Persons who were advertised for were to produce Testimonials of Competency?
Yes, they were.

Can you tell to what the Charges for Midwifery Cases amounted?
I cannot; they are not included in the Bill.

What Proportion did they bear to the Salaries in each Case?
The Cases of Midwifery were not very numerous.

Mr. R. Underdown.

Who is the Person who determines what Cases shall be attended by the Union Medical Men?
The Relieving Officer generally gives his Order at his Discretion.

By what Rule is he guided in giving those Orders?
I cannot tell. If a Person were in Circumstances not to afford it the Relieving Officer gives an Order.

Is it the Families of able-bodied Labourers?
Yes, sometimes.

Has it reference to the Number of Children of the Labourer?
Of course it has reference to that.

He does not limit it to those who are called Paupers?
No.

Does he act in a liberal Way, or in a contracted Way?
I should think in a liberal Way.

Did not you make a Payment to those Medical Gentlemen after the Verdict or the Award of the Referees?
Yes.

What was the Amount you paid?
Unless I had the Account before me I cannot state it correctly.

Was it 188*l.*?
I believe it was; but I was summoned so suddenly to come to Town I cannot say.

Their original Demand being 248*l.*?
Yes, as I believe.

How much would they have received during the same Time under their old Contract?
I have made no Calculation as to that.

Did not you supply the Calculation of that very Fact that it was 38*l.*?
No.

Who are the Medical Men in attendance now; are they the same?
They are the same, with the Exception of Mr. Ward.

The Witness is directed to send for his Minute Books, for the Letters from the Medical Men, and for their Accounts.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Mr. B. Toogood.

Mr. BARUCH TOOGOOD is called in, and examined as follows:

YOU are a Surgeon residing at Bridgwater, are you not?
I am not residing there now; I resided there formerly.

You were residing there in the Year 1837?
Part of the Year.

The early or the latter Part?
The early Part of the Year; I left in November.

You have been in charge of One of the Districts of the Bridgwater Union as Medical Attendant?
Yes.

Which of them was it?
The Polden Hill District.

At what Time did the last Year of your Attendance upon that District cease?
I held it from January 1836 till June 1837.

Mr. B. Toogood.

Was that the first Time that Medical Officers were appointed to the Districts?
It was.

At the End of that first Year of your Attendance what occurred between you and the Board; were you sent for to the Board on any particular Day?
Yes; but it was previous to the Termination of the Time; we were sent for with regard to the Subdivision into more Districts.

Are you the Author of a Pamphlet intituled "Facts connected with the Medical Relief of the Poor of the Bridgwater Union"?
I am not.

Are you at liberty to state who was the Author of it?
I conceive I am. It was drawn up by the Committee of the Medical Association, of whom my Father is Chairman.

Are you a Member of the Association?
I was a Member of the Association.

Was your Father, Mr. Jonathan Toogood, One of the Persons who had been in charge of any of those Districts?
He was not.

How far is Bridgwater from your District of Polden Hill?
From the extreme End of it it is Ten Miles and a Half.

From the nearest Point?
Five Miles, or rather more.

What was your Salary for attending upon that District?
£50 a Year.

You were to be allowed something in Midwifery Cases?
Yes.

That Sum was to include the Expenses of Vaccination?
Yes; and all Accidents.

And all Surgical Cases?
Yes.

Previously to the End of the Year you were sent for to attend the Board?
Yes, all of us.

When you got to the Board what passed?
We were merely asked what we thought as to the Redivision of the Union; whether we thought the Districts were too large or not. Our Opinion was merely asked, and we gave our Opinions.

What was your Opinion?
I hardly know that my Opinion was asked. The District I had had previously they intended to divide into Two; they asked me whether I approved of it; I said, I thought it was too large.

Did they propose to make Two Districts out of that One District, or to divide it into Two, and to give a Part of each to some other District?
They proposed to divide it; but they added to Part of that a Part of another District.

When they had done so did they state to you the Salaries at which they proposed to offer them to Gentlemen willing to attend to those Districts?
No; that was done by a printed Circular, which was sent afterwards to all the Medical Men.

All you were asked at the Meeting was with respect to the Size of the District, and not with respect to the Salaries attached to the District?
I do not think we were asked that then; but One of the Medical Men made a Remark with respect to the Payment.

What was that Remark?
That he thought the Payment was inadequate.

Mr. B. Toogood.

Was any Answer made to that?
I think it was said that that was to be considered another Time.

There was not any Remark made by any one on the Subject of Payment; it was put aside?
Yes. Before we went there we had some Conversation among ourselves; and it was distinctly understood that that Point was not then to be considered. We had heard that it was not to be considered by the Board on that Day, but that we were to have another Meeting for that Purpose.

The next Proceeding was an Advertisement on the Part of the Board; was not it?
Yes.

Were those new Districts ever tendered to you, the old Medical Officers, in preference to anybody else?
No, they were not.

The first Proceeding you knew of afterwards was the issuing of the Advertisements?
Yes; the Advertisements were directed to all the Medical Men residing in the Town and Neighbourhood.

They sent you a Copy of the Advertisement?
Yes.

Upon the Receipt of that what Measure did you take?
We called a Meeting of the Surgeons who had held Appointments under the Union, and addressed a Letter to the Board, requesting them to reconsider the Subject, and stating that we were not able to undertake the Attendance on the Poor at so low a Rate.

Previous to that had there been any Meetings of what you call the Medical Association at Bridgwater?
No; it was not then formed, I think.

Is this the Letter you mean, declining the Salaries: "Sir, the Medical Officers of the under-mentioned Districts of the Bridgwater Union respectfully acquaint the Board of Guardians, that, from their Experience during the past Year of the Extent of the Duties to be performed, the necessary Expenses of Medicines, &c., they cannot, with Justice to the Poor, the Guardians, and themselves, continue their Charge at the Salaries proposed; at the same Time, they are willing to resume their Duties on Terms consonant to the Feelings of Men of a liberal Education"?
I believe that was the first Letter.

Do you know the Date of that first Letter?
No; it was drawn up very hastily, and I think it was sent without a Date.

Was this added to it: "We, the undersigned Surgeons at present practising in Bridgwater, with much Pleasure concur in the Feeling expressed by the Medical Officers of the Bridgwater Union; and are of one Opinion, from our local Experience, that the Poor cannot be properly attended by competent Medical Officers at the Salaries offered without subjecting them to a considerable Loss"?
Yes, that was added to the first Letter.

This Confirmation or Approval from those other Gentlemen was appended to your Letter?
Yes, it was.

You say the Bridgwater Medical Association had not been formed at that Time?
I think not.

Do you remember when it was formed?
I think it was formed about that Time, that it was proposed that the Medical Men should form themselves into an Association.

Did you receive an Answer to that Letter?
No; there was no Answer sent.

Did

Did you attend afterwards to give in a Proposal to take any of those Districts?
No, I did not.

Did you ever go near the Board after that again?
No, I never did.

Was there any Offer on your Part made, until a new Arrangement could be made, that you were willing to attend the Poor gratuitously?
Another Letter was written by the Medical Men who had signed the former Letter, offering to take charge of the Poor gratuitously till something could be arranged.

That Letter was dated the 6th of June 1837; was not it?
It was.

Is this, which is printed in Pages 62 and 63 of the Papers laid before this Committee, a Copy of that Letter? (*The same being shown to the Witness.*)
Yes, it is.

To that you received an Answer?
Yes.

They declined that Offer of your attending gratuitously?
Yes.

On the 16th of June was there another Offer made by you to the Board of Guardians?
Yes; we offered to take a Fraction less than was given in the surrounding Unions, or to take a less Sum than was given in any of the surrounding Unions.

Did you propose to take it by the Head on the Population of 1832?
Yes, we did.

Was that done in Writing?
Yes, I think.

Did you state that as being less than the Ground of Compensation in any other Union?
No I think not in any other, but in some others; I think the Dorchester Union was mentioned, and One or Two other Unions in the Neighbourhood of that Union. This is a Letter which was written on the 16th of June: "Sir, The undersigned Medical Gentlemen beg respectfully to inform the Board of Guardians that they are willing to undertake the Care of the Poor on fair and equitable Terms, although they cannot accept the Offer contained in the Circular Letter addressed to them. They beg to direct the Attention of the Board to the Fact, that the average Payment on the Population in the Bridgwater District is considerably lower than in others."

Was there any Offer made of taking charge of the Districts marked 2. 6. 7. 8. at 4*d.* a Head, No. 5. at 3¾*d.*, and the Bridgwater District at 3*d.*, on the gross Population of 1832?
I am not able to give so distinct Evidence respecting this as some other of the Medical Men, for my District was then occupied by another Gentleman, and I did not attend the Poor; the Vacancy for mine was filled immediately.

By whom was your District filled?
It was filled by Mr. Robert Young and Mr. Phillips.

After the first Refusal you did not know much upon the Matter?
Not very much.

You were not one of the Persons who were ordered to attend upon the Poor afterwards, upon the common Terms of being paid for their Medicine?
No, I was not.

Mr. Jonathan Toogood is not here?
He is not.

You have since left Bridgwater?
Yes.

Mr. B. Toogood.

During the Time you were in charge of that District were you frequently called out from your Home to attend upon it?
Every other Day.

You had to ride upon the Average how many Miles?
I had to ride on the Average Twenty Miles every other Day.

Your Salary was *50l.*?
Yes.

For which you were obliged to ride every other Day into this District to attend Patients?
Yes.

How could it by Possibility answer your Purpose?
I was in Practice with my Father and Brother, all Three Partners. It was in consequence of their Assistance I was enabled to do it, and only in consequence of their Assistance; for within the first Week I held the Union a very severe Accident occurred in one of the Parishes: a Man was thrown down, a Waggon passed over his Legs, producing a Fracture of both Legs, and I had to stay with him from the Wednesday, when the Accident occurred, to amputate his Leg, and to obtain the Attendance of my Father and Brother, and to watch him till Sunday Night constantly, and to attend him afterwards Three Times a Week first, and then twice till he got well; and it would have been quite impossible for me to have done that had I not been supported by my Father and Brother; I must have suffered the Patient to have died, or put the Board of Guardians to a great Expense in getting other Medical Assistance.

What Age were you when you held this Appointment?
Twenty-five.

How long had you been practising as a Surgeon?
I had been practising since the Age of Twenty-two; not always in England.

You were not paid extra for the Fracture?
No; it was proposed at the Board of Guardians that some Remuneration should be made to me, but it was negatived, at the Recommendation of Mr. Weale, as I understood.

Without referring to that particular Accident of the Man breaking his Leg, what Sort of Attendance generally was it necessary for you to give to that District?
When I first took it I rented a Room at the further End of the District, for which I paid the Rent of *5l.* a Year; and I made an Arrangement with the Chairman and Board to be there twice a Week, to prevent the Patients having to send so far for their Medicines.

Then there was the other Part of the Week, when you attended on alternate Days?
Yes; and very often every Day.

Of course you had Practice in this District besides; independent Practice?
Certainly.

You took the Opportunity, when attending your independent Practice, to visit your Pauper Patients?
Very often.

Have you in any way considered, supposing you had had no independent Practice, what was the Time it would have taken you to attend upon the Paupers?
It would have taken almost the whole of my Time, I should think.

All the Three Days in the Week?
Yes.

You sometimes went into your District for the Purpose of attending your other Patients upon those other Days?
Yes.

Did

Mr. B. Toogood.

Did you equally take an Opportunity of seeing the Paupers who were ill?
Yes; but I was regularly obliged to make my Visits Twice or Three Times a Week, whether I had other Patients or not.

Did the Patients come to you at the Room you have spoken of, or had you to visit them at their Houses?
They came, but not so regularly as I expected.

Did they come so regularly as to prevent the Necessity of your making Visits to their Houses?
No, I had always some Visits.

Whereabouts was the Room you took?
It was Eight Miles from Bridgwater.

Therefore, when you went to that District you were obliged to ride Sixteen Miles on that Day?
Yes.

It was necessary for you to keep a Horse for that Purpose?
Oh yes.

How many Horses did you employ in your Business during that Time?
We had Six or Seven between us.

That was for Three of you?
Yes.

Had your Father and your Brother more or less Journeying in your professional Business than you had?
More.

Did you calculate that you took One Horse, or more?
Certainly more than One; my Father generally used Three Horses, and my Brother and myself generally used Three or Four.

Under those Circumstances how was it that you expected to make any Profit whatever from your Attendance upon those Paupers?
It could not be expected, I think, at all; nor was it expected.

When you took it it was not expected?
No; but the Inducement held out was that we should be better paid the Second Year.

Who held out that?
The Chairman; not publicly, but in private Conversation.

Was that held out to you personally?
Yes; he said, "I dare say another Year the Thing will work better and be paid better;" and he had some Intention of forming Medical Clubs and joining the Salary of the Medical Club with the Union.

What is the Name of the Chairman?
Mr. Warry.

Did you personally state to him your Views of the Smallness of the Salary?
It was Matter of Conversation.

Do you mean to say that Mr. Warry stated to you that you would be paid better the next Year?
He said, "I have no doubt next Year it will all work better, and you will be paid better."

Do you mean to say that he said you would be paid better by the Board of Guardians, or that it would become more advantageous to you in consequence of the Operation of the Medical Clubs?
I think that was his Idea.

It was not your Idea that he held out that you would be better paid by the Board of Guardians?
No. I expected better Payment.

Mr. B. Toogood.

You in fact took it on the Notion you had, in consequence of the Conversations, that it would be better another Year, from some Cause or other?

Yes. We had no Idea of the Extent of the Labour the First Year, that it would be so much.

Were you influenced in taking those Paupers at that low Sum for the Purpose of preventing any other Medical Man coming into that District who might take from you some of your private Practice?

Partly; there was no Medical Man residing there then.

If you had not taken it another Medical Man might have come and taken Part of your private Practice?

Yes; that has been the Case since.

Generally the Inducement, probably, was to get into Practice yourself?

Certainly.

To have an Opportunity of showing your Skill to the Country, and by that Means to obtain Practice?

Certainly.

Whatever your other Objects were, you contracted the Notion that, in some Way or other, the Profits would be increased the following Year?

Yes.

At the End of that Year what Prospect was there of your obtaining any additional Remuneration from any Sick Clubs, or any thing of that Sort?

The Thing was proposed, but the Sick Clubs were never formed, I believe; and we were very much surprised indeed when the Circulars were sent round, and the Salaries were found not to be raised, or rather to be diminished; the Medical Men determined at once not to accept the Situations.

Why were they diminished?

The Unions were divided, and therefore the Salaries were not so great.

Was not the Sum Total as great?

I hardly know.

Were you reduced or raised?

A great many Paupers were sent into the Poorhouse, and therefore that made a Difference.

There were no Medical Clubs established?

No, I think not.

Will you refer to the original Salaries paid, and the Salaries which were proposed: take the Bridgwater District, which, under the first Arrangement, contained a Population of 8,833 Persons; the Salary was 100*l.*?

Yes.

Look at Page 61; it is there stated, "Bridgwater Parish, containing the Borough and Parish of Bridgwater, with a Population of 7,807; the Salary 70*l.* a Year." The Reduction, in point of Population, is about One Eighth; the Reduction of Salary is more than One Fourth; can you state any Ground upon which the Reduction of the Salary should have been so much greater in proportion to the Reduction in the Population?

No, I cannot.

Do you know whether the Workhouse was in the Bridgwater District at first?

Yes; but it was not built at first; the Workhouse was in another District.

By whom was that attended?

It was attended by Mr. Abraham King, I believe. Part of the Poor were at another Poorhouse, in another District, at North Petherton. The Children, I think, were there.

Were the Parishes of Wembdon, Durleigh, Chilton Trinity, and Chedzoy attached to the Bridgwater District in the First Year?

Yes.

How far are those Parishes off?
Chedzoy was the furthest off, I think.

The taking them off would be a great Relief to the Medical Officer?
Yes.

If he could afford to do it, in the one Case, at 100*l.*, was 70*l.* too small in proportion to the District when reduced in that Way by taking off those Parishes?
Not in proportion, I think, because he did not want a Horse for the Bridgwater District alone.

You said you thought the Salaries the Second Year were rather diminished; do you mean to say that the Sum Total of the Salaries was diminished?
No.

Are you not aware that the Sum Total was considerably increased?
I was not aware of that; I did not hold an Appointment under the Parish.

You did not offer yourself?
No.

As far as you are aware of the Salaries of the Unions, were the Salaries such as they ought to have been for the Care of the Paupers committed to you?
Certainly not.

According to your Opinion it was impossible for any Medical Man, with that Salary, to give that Attention to the Poor, and furnish them with that Medicine which in the ordinary course of Things they would require, except at very considerable Loss?
Decidedly.

Do you know that an eminent Practitioner expressed, before those Salaries were fixed, an Opinion that the Salaries were sufficient?
No.

Are you, from your Practice, decidedly of opinion that they were not sufficient?
In my own Case it was decidedly not.

Do you mean to say that if there were an insulated Practitioner, or one not assisted by other Practice, it would be impossible to supply that Attendance at that Rate?
I had other Practice, and my Father and Brother had other Practice.

If you had been in possession of the general Practice of that District in which you were engaged with the Paupers, would not an additional 50*l.* have been an adequate Remuneration to you for your Services?
No, not considering the Distance.

You were in Practice in the Year 1835, were not you, jointly with your Father and Brother?
Yes.

How many Horses did you keep then?
Five or Six; I think Five. He kept more after I joined him; as soon as I joined him he kept more; he always kept Four or Five; I think always Five; but sometimes we kept Seven after that.

Previous to your attending the Poor he always kept Four or Five?
Yes.

There was no additional Horse taken in consequence of your Contract with the Union?
There certainly was One Horse; it made a Difference of One Horse, I am certain.

How many Horses did your Father keep before you contracted with the Union?
He did not always keep the same Number, for they were not always used professionally; they were sometimes used for other Purposes.

Mr. B. Toogood.

Has he kept a greater Number, or less, since?
Since I left him he has kept less.

How many does he keep now?
He keeps now Five, I think.

Your Acceptance of that Contract, however, introduced you to a greater Quantity of Practice, which perhaps you would not otherwise have had?
Oh dear no.

Do you think it a good Plan to get Surgeons to attend the Poor to give them Experience and bring them before the World as skilful Persons?
I should think not.

Would a Salary of 50*l.* a Year have made it worth your Father's and Brother's while to attend the Poor if you had not been with them?
Decidedly not; my Father was against my taking it.

Would it have been worth the while of any other Person to take it?
No; I am quite certain it cost me 20*l.* or 30*l.*

Can you state what the Medicine cost you?
No.

Would not the Medicine alone, if you supplied the best Drugs, be considerable?
Yes; I am sure it cost me 20*l.*, if not 30*l.*, for my Trouble and for Drugs.

If you take 20*l.* out for Drugs, and 5*l.* for the Lodging, you have only 25*l.* for yourself to go there at least Three Times a Week?
Yes. I cannot tell what the Drugs cost me; we used the same for the Paupers as we did for all the other Patients, and they were dispensed by the same Person.

In the Polden District, of which you had the Charge, there are 3,697 Persons; supposing those Persons to have been attended at 4*d.* per Head, what would be the Amount?
61*l.* 12*s.*

Then the Increase upon that Salary, supposing it taken upon those Terms, would have been 11*l.* 12*s.*?
Yes.

Would that Increase of 11*l.* 12*s.* have been such an Increase as would have enabled you to do it without its actually costing you more Money than you received?
I hardly think that my District is a fair Example, for it is so large, and so far off, it would not answer. I think in another District I might have done it; but I had to ride Five Miles before I got into the District.

That District is not a fair Case, in consequence of your Distance from it?
Yes.

Was there a Person living nearer than Bridgwater?
Yes, there was a Person, but he was not properly qualified; he was not considered properly qualified by the Board; he did not offer.

Did the Board require at first that they should be all Members of the Surgeons or Apothecaries Company?
They required us to send our Certificates.

Did they do so subsequently?
I believe they did not.

Did they afterwards take Persons who were not Members of the Surgeons or Apothecaries Company?
They did.

Do you know any of those Persons who were so taken?
I do.

Do you conceive they were legally qualified?
They were not legally qualified.

Mr. B. Toogood.

Do you know any thing of their Skill yourself?
I know only One of them who was employed the Second Year.

Do you consider that Person of sufficient Skill to have the Care of the Poor of that District?
I hardly know whether I can answer that Question.

Is he one of the Persons who practised as Surgeons before the Year 1815?
Yes.

Supposing you had lived in that District, and for many Years had been employed in attending to the Poor, would it have been necessary for you to keep a Horse for that Purpose?
Yes, certainly.

If you had likewise your Time to give and the Medicines to provide, would 61*l.* 12*s.* have been a sufficient Remuneration for you to undertake that Duty?
Barely, I think; but then I should not have kept my Horse entirely, perhaps, for the Union; I must have kept a Horse for the Union, but I should have used it on other Occasions.

One great Inducement in taking the Poor at this low Salary would have been to prevent any other Medical Person coming into the District and taking away Part of your private Practice; would it not?
I think that was one great Inducement.

Supposing you had been inclined to take Bridgwater Parish, with a Population of 7,807 Persons, at a Salary of 70*l.*, would that have paid you for your Attendance on the Paupers of that Parish?
I should think not.

You have said that in the Two Districts into which your former District was divided the Persons resident there have made it answer; supposing you had been resident in Bridgwater, why could not you make the Attendance on Patients in Bridgwater answer as well?
I think there was more Sickness, generally, in the Town than in the Country Parts.

Bridgwater is not a very healthy Place?
No; there was an Epidemic more than once during the First Year.

With respect to Huntspill District, in which there was a Population of 3,001, the Salary attached to that, according to the Advertisement, was 40*l.*; supposing a Person to have been resident within that Division, could he have received any Emolument from the Attendance on the Poor on those Terms?
I should think not; there was a great deal of Sickness in that District all the Time; it was the most troublesome District almost to the Board.

Was that from any casual Circumstance, or was it generally so?
I know it was so the whole Time.

The whole Country is subject to Agues, is it not?
It was very much so; it is not so much so now.

With respect to the North Petherton District, which contains 4,967 Persons, the Salary attached to that is 63*l.* a Year; if you will refer to Page 60 it appears that there is a Reduction in the Salary of 8*l.*, according to the Return in June 1837?
That is so.

Who was the Medical Officer of the North Petherton District?
Mr. Tilsley.

Did he reside in the District?
Yes, he did.

Is that a very considerable District?
Very.

What Distance would he have to go to attend the Paupers?
I think Four or Five Miles, but I cannot tell exactly.

Mr. B. Toogood.

In your Opinion, with the Reduction of 300 Population, would the Salary of 55*l.* have been such a Salary as would have enabled him to do the Duty with any Profit whatever to himself?

I think not; I think none of the Salaries would be at all profitable; the only Inducement was an Introduction, and the keeping others out; but I do not think it was advisable for any Man.

What Age is Mr. Tilsley?

Between Thirty and Forty.

He has Part of the Union under his Care, has he not?

I think he has; but I have not been residing there lately; he had when I left in November last.

He had it for a Year?

Yes; there have been fresh Contracts since that.

You do not know what he is paid now?

No, I do not.

Do you not think the old Parish Contracts were considered very profitable in themselves by the Medical Men who took them?

No; they were not considered worth much; but the whole Amount of that was considerably more than the Amount given under the Union.

Still it was not considered to remunerate?

No.

What was the Difference of Payment under the old Poor Law and the new?

I think it is almost 100*l.*; I do not know what the whole Amount under the Union was; I think it was 370*l.*, and that there was about 100*l.* Difference.

You had an Opportunity of ascertaining the Amount paid under the old Poor Law in the entire Union?

Yes.

On comparison it was 100*l.* higher than at present?

It was considerably higher; I think more than 100*l.*

Generally speaking, do you consider that Medical Men are less well paid under the new Law than the old?

Certainly; there is more expected of them and less Pay.

Do you consider that in consequence of that the Poor are suffering?

I am sure in the District I had they suffered very materially, for they were not able to send for me the Distance when they were ill, and they were not able to send for my Medicines; and in Midwifery Cases they had to come to me sometimes Eight Miles.

In this District it was a great Inconvenience to the Paupers, you say, not having a Medical Man nearer; how did they manage before the Formation of the Union?

There were Medical Men employed then who lived there, but they were not qualified; One of them presented himself to the Board, and was rejected, having no Qualification.

They were considered quite good enough to doctor them by the Overseers, but not by the Board of Guardians?

Yes.

But do not the Board of Guardians consider some of those unqualified Persons sufficient to doctor them now?

Yes, they do, in some Instances.

You say there is more Work now; is there more Relief required?

Yes, I think there is; the Relieving Officer is always going round.

The Poor are better taken care of than they were under the old Law?

I cannot say; I never held an Appointment before.

You have stated that the Poor suffered in consequence of the Change?

Yes; they suffered in my District, certainly.

Mr. B. Toogood.

Was there any Objection on the Part of the Guardians to give additional Food in the Shape of Wine or Meat, if ordered by the Medical Man?
No; when it was required we gave an Order for it, but they had to take it to the Relieving Officer several Miles, and which they sometimes neglected to do.

Did not the Relieving Officer go round the District?
Yes, once a Week; but it was sometimes desirable at once.

Was the Relieving Officer in the habit of visiting the Paupers who were sick?
Yes, I think so, but I very seldom saw him.

What makes you think he did so?
I know he had his regular Rounds to visit all the sick.

That regular Round was not more than once a Week?
No.

Consequently if they wanted any thing in the meantime they could not get it?
No; they must apply to him.

Could not they apply to the Overseer or to the Magistrate?
I believe they could. I recollect One Instance where I was requested to go to visit a Midwifery Case at some Miles distant. The Clergyman of the Parish came to me, and represented the Person to be in a dangerous State on the Road. I met the Relieving Officer; he told me I should certainly have an Order. I told him I had none. I went to see the Person; she was not in a State to be delivered. I prescribed for her. She was not delivered then; and because she was not delivered I was never paid by the Board, which made us careful not to go unless we got actual Orders from the Officer. I rode Sixteen Miles and got nothing for it.

Were you under Contract to attend the Paupers?
Yes; but we were to be paid extra for Midwifery Cases. The Woman was in Labour when I saw her, but she got better.

Did you call it a Midwifery Case because the Woman was suffering Pain with her Pregnancy?
Yes.

How soon was she delivered?
The Day afterwards, I think.

You were not present then?
No.

The Pangs of Labour had taken place?
Yes; the Labour was protracted.

Because you were not present at the Time she was actually brought to Bed you received nothing?
No.

Did you go the Sixteen Miles again to attend her?
I was not sent for to attend her afterwards.

Should you have expected to be paid for Two Labours if you had gone a Second Time and attended her?
Certainly not.

You did expect to be paid something for going, though she was not brought to Bed?
Yes; because the Clergyman of the Parish came to tell me, and I met the Relieving Officer.

You rode Sixteen Miles to attend that Woman?
Yes; that was a common Case. It very often happens that People of that Class send for the Medical Man much before he is wanted, and he may go Three or Four Times over.

Mr. B. Toogood.

They pay only One 10*s.* when they employ you themselves?
Yes; they take advantage of that; they send as soon as they are unwell.

It is in consequence of the Uncertainty of the Time during which your professional Services are inapplicable for any other Services that that large Remuneration of 10*s.*, which is more than you would receive for other Services, is fixed for Midwifery Cases?
It was not considered as large, for when it was proposed the Medical Gentlemen requested they might be paid a Guinea for such Cases. There were not in the whole of my District more than Two or Three Cases occurred which I had to attend.

Did any other Person attend the Woman in her Labour?
I think the Nurse, which is very often the Case.

Did the Woman do well?
Yes.

Did the Parish pay for that Midwife?
I cannot tell.

Did you ever hear from any of the pauper Patients that they were worse off in respect of Medical Attendance under the new Poor Law than the old?
I have heard them complain certainly of the Inconvenience of sending such a Distance.

They have to send greater Distances than they had before?
Yes.

Do you think that those Complaints were well founded?
In my Case certainly they were.

They had to send first to the Relieving Officer?
Yes.

Then to the Doctor?
Yes.

The Relieving Officer might live Five Miles one Way, and the Surgeon Five Miles another?
That is possible, certainly.

Did you ever attend the Poorhouse at Bridgwater?
No.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Mr. J. E. Poole.

Mr. JOHN EVERED POOLE is called in, and examined as follows:

YOU are a Surgeon by Profession?
I am.

Where do you reside?
In the Town of Bridgwater.

In the year 1836 were you a Medical Officer in any of the Districts of the Bridgwater Union?
I was in the Cannington District; it is marked No. 6.

Are you still the Medical Officer of that District?
I am not, of that District; it has been altered.

The Population was 3,041 in 1836?
Yes.

You took it a Salary of 35*l.*?
Yes.

You have still that Cannington District, reduced to a Population of 2,394?
I have.

What is your Salary now?
32l.

How comes it to be *32l.*; it was stated in the Advertisement of the 22d of May to be *30l.* only?
The District was let to Mr. Ruddock; the Two Districts run together. When they found there was no Medical Officer to take the District, they appointed Mr. Ruddock of Nether Stowey to it; he declined taking it, and said if the Board would sanction his dividing it with me he would take it, which they did.

What does he get for the Stowey District?
48l.

That would be an Increase of *5l.* on the original Sum proposed on the 22d of May 1837?
It was a slight Increase; I do not know to what Amount exactly.

When the new Salary was proposed to you, did you object to it?
I did.

Are you paid more or less, in proportion to the Work you have to do, than you were when you had charge of the larger District?
I think I am paid in somewhat the same Proportion; I have not made any accurate Calculation.

You signed a Letter to the Chairman of the Board of Guardians, shortly after that Advertisement of the 22d of May 1837 was issued, did you not?
I did.

You stated in that Letter, that after Experience you could not, in Justice to the Poor, the Guardians, or yourself, continue your Attendance at the Salary proposed?
Yes.

If you are not paid more in proportion now than you were previously to 1837 how have you satisfied yourself that you can continue your Services?
My Impression was, if I continued it, that the present Inquiry going on, or likely to go on, would prove beneficial to the Medical Officers, and I would not throw any Obstacle in the Way of the Board; that was my Feeling.

When was it you entered into the Service of the Board for *32l.*?
On the 24th of June 1837, or about that Time.

What Inquiry was going on at that Time?
We anticipated an Inquiry, and we thought we would go on.

What Inquiry did you anticipate?
We anticipated such an Inquiry as is now going on.

That influenced you to take it in June 1837?
Yes.

When you had the larger Cannington District you were living at Bridgwater?
Yes.

How far was the nearest Part of Cannington District from you at Bridgwater?
About Seven Miles.

Taking an Average, how far had you to ride to see your Patients?
On an Average from Four to Five Miles.

Have you many of your own Patients in that District?
Yes; and though I am a young Man beginning Life, and have not so many as some, yet I have Patients in the Neighbourhood.

Had you when you took it?
Yes, I had.

What Sort of Increase to your Business did your taking those Paupers occasion?
A very considerable one.

Mr. J. E. Poole.

Had you a Horse previously?
I had.

Have you been obliged to keep Two Horses, or One, since?
I have kept a Second for the greater Portion of the Time.

Do you mean at a particular Time of the Year?
I have kept a Second Horse until last Christmas.

During the whole of the first Year from 1836 to 1837?
Yes.

By the Reduction of your District, are you enabled to do with less Horse-work?
Yes.

What Addition have you made in consequence of having those Paupers in point of Horse-work?
I have made no Addition since Christmas; I have occasionally hired a Horse when my Horse has been distressed.

Supposing you had no Patients whatever but the pauper Patients, would you have been obliged to have a Horse constantly, or only to have hired occasionally?
I must have had a Horse constantly in the Stable.

Supposing you had got no independent Patients?
Yes.

Would you have had full Occasion for the whole Use of that Horse?
I think I should; there may have been a Day occasionally when I may not have wanted a Horse.

Supposing you had not had the Paupers, would you have been obliged to have a Horse for the independent Patients you had?
I must have kept a Horse under any Circumstances, but the Horse perhaps would not have been wholly engaged.

How did you make it answer to you to take this District at those Prices under those Circumstances?
It never answered my Purpose in the Way of Remuneration; I always lost Money by the District.

Do you mean to say you were not so well paid as you would have been for independent Patients, or that you were in reality out of Pocket?
I am in reality Money out of Pocket.

Was it in Medicines or Expenses?
It was in both.

Can you give a Notion what the Medicines in 1836 and 1837 cost you?
I could by running through my Books; I am not prepared with an accurate Statement. I should think my Drugs may have cost me about 25*l.*

Out of 32*l.*?
Yes: I am including Bottles and Things; the Use of Leeches and various Things.

Do you mean the prime Cost, or with a Profit upon them?
The prime Cost.

At what do you set the Amount you expended with respect to your Horse upon those Paupers?
Not much extra Expense with my Horse; he ate more Corn certainly; that was the only extra Expense with my Horse.

You mean to say, that being obliged at all events to keep a Horse, you only gave him some more Corn to enable him to do more Work?
That was the only additional Expense I was at.

Could you give a Notion of the Amount of the Addition for the Year?
I think very trifling.

Mr. J. E. Poole.

There was the Wear and Tear of the Horse?
Yes; that would be considerable, and the Turnpikes would be attended with some Expense.

Can you give a Notion of the Expense occasioned in those respects?
The Turnpikes amount, I think, to about *5l.* a Year; the additional Corn of my Horse would not amount to much; perhaps Twenty Bushels in a Year.

The rest would be for your Time?
Yes.

How much do you calculate you should be paid for your Time out of that *32l.*?
I do not consider I am at all paid for my Time.

Is it not your Intention to continue to take charge of that District?
I have accepted the District for the ensuing Year.

Upon the same Terms?
Yes.

If the Account you have been giving of what you made of that District be a correct Account, what has induced you to continue to take charge of that District?
It is in consequence entirely of this Inquiry. I wrote to the Board of Guardians a Letter to the Effect that I would wait the Result of this Inquiry, and would throw no Obstacle to impede the Prosecution of the Poor Law Amendment Act; that I would accept it for the present Year upon those Grounds.

Supposing nothing comes out of this Inquiry, is it your Intention to continue to keep your District beyond your present Contract?
I certainly should not continue it.

Is it the Fact that you have made up your Mind upon that?
At present my Impression is that I would not continue it.

Why should you give up the Contract you have entered into?
Because I do not consider the Salary a sufficient Remuneration.

You do not consider the Salary sufficient, or that it is worth your while to do the Duty for that Salary?
I do not.

Is there no Hope, such as getting you into Practice, or any thing of that Sort, that would induce you to continue it?
Certainly; that was my great Object in taking the Union, in the first instance. I was a young Man, and wished to make myself known.

What is your Age?
Thirty-three.

How long have you been in Practice?
Ten Years.

Where have you been in Practice?
At Bridgwater.

You thought you could obtain more Practice by taking this Step?
Yes.

Do you find it has answered your Purpose in that respect?
It has to some Extent; I have increased my Number of private Patients.

But for the Prospect of something coming out of this Inquiry, would you continue to take this District at its present Price after the Year for which you have engaged?
I should not like to answer that Question. I do not know what my Feelings may be a Twelvemonth hence; but my present Feeling is, that I should not.

Would any body, supposing him not to have Objects of the Sort you have alluded to in his Mind, be disposed to take those Districts at those Prices?
No, I should think nobody would.

Mr. J. E. Poole.

With a view to those Objects, you conceive there are some Persons who would take them?
Yes, I can conceive that.

What Sort of Persons would they be; Persons already launched in the Profession, or Persons beginning it?
Persons beginning it.

But Persons duly qualified?
Many who are not duly qualified offer themselves for the Appointments. I dare say there are qualified Men that would do so; I think there may be some well qualified.

Is it not a dangerous Speculation to put the Poor, generally speaking, into the Hands of young Persons, who are desirous of taking them more for the Purpose of perfecting themselves in the Profession than for Profit?
I think if a young Man is well qualified, and has Testimonials of his Skill, that he ought to be very competent, as a young Man, to take charge of a Union.

Have not they taken some who have not those Testimonials?
I understand they have.

Was one of your chief Inducements in taking this Appointment at a low Salary to prevent any other Medical Man coming in?
That was one of my Inducements, and the chief one, which had great Weight with me, that if Men were introduced into the Villages which we were constantly riding over they might take Part of our Business from us.

A great Objection is felt by Professional Men generally to allow a new Practitioner to come in and deprive them of a Portion of their Business?
Yes, certainly; we make very great Sacrifices sometimes on that Account. There are so many Medical Men around us, if the Business is much more divided it will not be worth attending to.

There is a Resolution to this Effect, at a Meeting of the Medical Society at Bridgwater: "That they will not recognize or hold Intercourse with any Medical Practitioner who dishonours the Profession by acting in opposition to their Resolutions"?
Yes.

Did those Gentlemen who are Members of this Union take any Notice of your having after that Vote taken this District?
They did not; we are still upon intimate Terms.

Did you attend the Poorhouse at Bridgwater?
I did.

During any Illness which prevailed?
I attended during the Time of the Diarrhœa; during the Months of December, January, February, and March.

You acted as Honorary Secretary to that Meeting when they came to that Resolution, did you not?
Yes, I did.

One of those Resolutions was, "That this Meeting pledges itself not to accept any Appointment under the Poor Law Amendment Act without the Sanction of the Committee," was it not?
Yes, I believe it was.

Did you get the Sanction of the Committee for accepting the Appointment you afterwards accepted?
Yes.

Have you had the Sanction renewed for entering into a fresh Contract this Year?
No; I have not consulted them upon the Subject.

Does that Association continue?
We have not met for a Length of Time; many Months.

Mr. J. E. Poole.

You do not perhaps consider it in force?
Yes, it still exists, but we have not had any Meeting.

Were you influenced in any Proceeding you took by Hostility to the Poor Law Commissioners or the Persons acting under them?
Decidedly not.

Have you any Reason to think that the Members of that Society in beginning to associate were influenced by such a Feeling?
No; I have not any Impression of the Kind.

With the Salaries offered by the Board of Guardians, do you think that the Poor in that District could be properly attended to?
They have been properly attended to; but I think that they do not give the Medical Man any Remuneration for his Time.

Is it likely that in Times to come they will be attended to properly for such a Salary?
I trust they will be; I will do my Duty.

You have no Doubt that a Supply of Professional Men may be obtained properly educated for those Salaries?
That is a Question I cannot answer; there are young Men sometimes ready to take any thing in the Shape of Business; that is a Question I do not feel prepared to answer.

If the Poor have been properly attended to, has it not been at a considerable Loss to the Medical Men?
It has been a Loss to the Medical Men; I have no Doubt every Medical Man in the District has lost Money by it.

Is it not universally the Case when young Medical Men set up first that they lose Money till they have made themselves known and introduced themselves into Practice?
Previous to the new Poor Law Act we were a great deal better paid.

Is not a Medical Man always out of Pocket when he first starts, before he makes himself known?
I should say he is.

He would be out of Pocket, because his Keep of his Horse and his other Expenses would exceed his Receipts?
Yes.

A young Man charges the same for Fees and his Medicines as an old Man does?
Yes.

Is it not very much the Practice for Medical Gentlemen, under those Circumstances, to attend the Poor gratuitously of their own Accord, not employed by the Parish or Union?
We occasionally attend them gratuitously.

Persons who wish to introduce themselves into Practice do that, do they not?
I never heard an Instance of that in my Neighbourhood.

You attended the Workhouse during the Time the Diarrhœa was prevalent there, did you not?
I did.

What was the Occasion of that Diarrhœa?
I attribute the Diarrhœa in the House to the Diet, and the House being too thickly populated.

What Part of the Diet is it you attribute that Disease to?
To the Gruel.

What Quantity of Gruel had they?
They had a Pint, I believe, Three Times in the Day; but I am not quite prepared to state the exact Quantity.

Mr. J. E. Poole.

Do the Poor in your District make use of the Gruel?
I am not prepared to say.

What is their usual Food?
Principally Vegetables, and Salt Meat and Bread.

A very considerable Quantity of Bread?
I think not a considerable Quantity, generally speaking; I think the Poor in our Neighbourhood live on Vegetables with Bread.

Do you mean Potatoes?
Yes; I imagine they do generally; I am not prepared fully to answer that Question.

What Proportion of Meat or Bacon?
That I am not prepared to say; I have occasionally gone into the poor Men's Houses, and seen them at Dinner with Potatoes, and Meat and Bread before them, but I cannot say in what Proportions.

You say your Impression is, that the Diarrhœa came from the Diet, and particularly from the Gruel; did you take any Measures to get any Alteration made in it?
I frequently mentioned the Subject to the Visiting Committee; I never on any Occasion wrote to the Board upon the Subject, certainly.

Did you make any Entry in the Medical Journal?
No; we never do that. It is done by the Visiting Committee. In our weekly Return Book we make an Entry of the People.

Did you make an Entry that the Illness was owing to the Dietary?
I did not.

How came you not to do that if you were of opinion that the Illness was owing to the Dietary?
We were requested to meet the Visiting Committee, which we did, and every Alteration we wished was mentioned to them, and carried by them to the Board. We never mentioned any thing to the Board in any other Way.

How many Weeks did you mention this?
Many Weeks following.

Was any Alteration made, and when?
An Alteration was made, I think, the latter End of October.

When did you first mention it?
The Alteration was not made when I first mentioned it.

When did you first mention it?
I think early in October.

When was the Alteration made?
I think the First Week in November.

That was Three or Four Weeks?
It was Two or Three Weeks, certainly.

Had you mentioned it more than Once to the Visiting Committee?
Yes, certainly, I had.

Had you pressed it upon them as absolutely necessary to be done?
Yes.

What Answer did they make?
They said they would bring the Subject before the Board.

At last was it altered in consequence of what you had stated to them, or in consequence of what Mr. King had stated to them?
I should rather say in consequence of what Mr. King had stated to them; he wrote a Letter to the Board, and it was attended to in the course of the next Week.

Did that make any Alteration in the Health of those People?
Yes; they daily improved from that Time.

Mr. J. F. Poole.

How many had died in the meantime, from the Time you began to complain?
I am not quite prepared to answer that.

Were there many died?
I have no Doubt a Dozen died of the Diarrhœa, or there may have been more.

Are you prepared to say that they died of Diarrhœa, or that they were ill of other Disorders, or that they died from old Age, and so forth?
Very few died from old Age at that Period; but those were Cases of Diarrhœa.

You mean to say that Diarrhœa was the Occasion of the Death of those Parties?
Yes, I think it was.

That is from the Beginning of October till the Time that the Dietary was altered on Mr. King's Application, which was the first Week in November?
I think those were the Dates.

You say you made your Complaint early in October?
I am not prepared at all with the Times.

You were not Surgeon of the Workhouse?
No, I was not.

When you attended the Workhouse you attended for Mr. King?
Yes.

How long did you attend for Mr. King?
About Four Months.

When did you first complain to the Visiting Committee of the Gruel as creating the Diarrhœa?
I really am not prepared with the Dates.

Are you sure it was Two or Three Weeks before it was altered?
Yes; I believe it was Two or Three Weeks before it was altered.

Was it longer than that?
No; I think thereabout.

Do you know the Date of Mr. King's Letter to the Board of Guardians?
No, I do not.

If that Letter was dated the 25th of October 1836, at that Time Mr. King was returned, and that Alteration was immediately made, therefore it must have been Three or Four Weeks previous to that that your Complaint was made?
Yes, I believe it was.

You say that there were Twelve People died of Diarrhœa during those Three or Four Weeks?
I am not certain as to the Number, but several Persons did die; but I should not like to state any Number.

Several died with that Complaint; of Diarrhœa arising from the Gruel?
Yes.

Does any Medical Man sign the Register of Deaths in the Bridgwater Union?
Yes.

Did the Medical Man sign the Register of those Deaths?
Yes; Mr. King I apprehend did.

Did you not sign the Register of the Deaths which occurred while they were under your Care?
I think I did, a few.

Mr. J. E. Poole.

If a Dozen died of Diarrhœa while under your Care you signed a Certificate of their Deaths, did not you?
I cannot say whether I did; Mr. King always attended, though he was in ill Health, and was not equal to the whole Duty.

Either you or Mr. King signed the Certificate of every Person who died of Diarrhœa?
Yes.

In which you stated the Cause of the Death?
Yes.

Then if it appears by the Return made between the 28th of September and the 15th of October that no Person died, and that between the 15th of October and the 25th of October only Five Persons died, and not One of them died of Diarrhœa, are you not incorrect in supposing that Twelve Persons had died during those Three Weeks of Diarrhœa in the Workhouse?
I fear I am incorrect as to the Dates; I am not at all prepared with the Dates. I commenced visiting Mr. King's District for him on the 27th of October.

You think it was later than October that those People died?
I rather think it was.

Did not Mr. King re-commence his Visitations from that Time—the 25th of October?
No, I think not.

Did you continue to attend with him?
I think I continued visiting with him till the March following.

In consequence of Mr. King's Representation on the 25th of October that the Gruel was the Cause of Complaint, it was discontinued, was it not?
It was.

Then if those Deaths occasioned by Diarrhœa occurred after that Period the Diarrhœa was not owing to the Gruel?
It was produced by the Gruel.

Do you mean to say it continued notwithstanding the Change of Diet?
No; they improved; and, if I recollect correctly, they went back to Gruel again after a certain Time, but I cannot say at what Time, and they became worse; and the Diet was again changed, and then again they began to improve.

When was it that they went back to Gruel again?
I am not prepared to give the Date.

Was it while you attended?
Yes.

Did you approve of their going back to Gruel again?
No.

Did you express any Disapprobation?
I mentioned it to Mr. King, and he mentioned it to some of the Guardians.

Had there been any Application to the Guardians?
I cannot say whether there had.

Did you yourself make any Application to the Guardians?
I did not.

You were recognized by the Guardians as attending for Mr. King?
Yes.

You did not make any Application to the Guardians?
I did not.

You did not think the Case so serious as to call upon you to make an Application to the Guardians?
It was left to Mr. King; he made all the Representations to the Guardians.

Mr. J. E. Poole.

Did you make any Complaint to the Visiting Committee when they returned to the Gruel?
I did.

Who were the Visiting Committee?
I am not prepared to say who they were; they came every Week.

Do you recollect at what Period it was that you complained, or that they returned to the Gruel?
No, I do not.

How long did you continue to assist Mr. King in his Attendance on the Workhouse?
I think till March.

You cannot take upon you to recollect when it was that the Return to Gruel took place; was it after One Month's Use of the new Diet, or Two Months, or Three Months?
I am not at all prepared to state the Dates.

On what Occasion did they return to the Gruel?
I imagine that their Health was tolerably well; that they were so much improved that they thought they might go back to the Dietary again. I do not know that that was the Impression of the Board.

Do you know whether that was on the Recommendation of any Medical Man?
I cannot tell.

Have you ever attended the North Petherton Union?
No.

As often as they returned to the Gruel did the Diarrhœa return again?
Yes; I believe on the Occasion that they returned to the Gruel the Diarrhœa returned.

Were there Deaths after that?
I believe there were.

Were those in your Union Deaths owing to Diarrhœa?
They were.

Was the Diarrhœa attended with Typhus Fever?
No, it was not.

Will you look at those Returns of the Register of Deaths between the 9th of November 1836 and the 21st of March 1837, and state how many Deaths are stated to have taken place from Diarrhœa in that Period?
There are Ten.

Was that Account signed by you?
No.

You do not know that that is an accurate Account?
Certainly not.

Do you happen to know the Names of any of those Persons who have so died of Diarrhœa between the Beginning of October and the Beginning of November?
I do not.

You will observe that between the 28th of September and the 7th of November there is no One Case of Death from Diarrhœa?
There does not appear to be, according to this Account.

Are there any of those whom you can state by Name to have died of Diarrhœa during the Time you attended the Workhouse?
I do not know that I can state any; it is very common for Diarrhœa to terminate in Effusion.

Who makes the Entries in the Surgeon's Book?
It is done by the Surgeon.

Mr. J. E. Poole.

Have you made no Entries?
I have no Recollection of having done so. I think Mr. King would be able to state all the Particulars; he had the sole Management of it.

When you attended the Workhouse at that Time you made no Entries when you attended the Patients?
No; I merely attended for Mr. King, and I think he made the Entries.

Is Mr. King here?
No, he is not.

When you attended the Workhouse, and attended any Patients for him, did you not enter the Names of those Cases in the Workhouse Book?
I always made an Entry of the Case in my weekly Return, and returned it to the Board of Guardians.

Who made an Entry of the Deaths?
We do not usually make Entries of the Deaths in our weekly Return Book.

Was it the Master of the Workhouse who made the Return of the Deaths?
I do not at all know how that was done.

Did you ever yourself make an Entry of the Death of any Person you attended?
I may have done so in a Case or Two.

You do not usually do so?
No; Mr. King is the Registrar.

The same Mr. King who is the Surgeon?
Yes.

Were many of the Patients removed from the Bridgwater Workhouse to any other during the Time of the Diarrhœa?
Many were removed to the North Petherton Workhouse.

During the Time you were attending there were some removed to the North Petherton Workhouse?
Yes.

If you find that some died of Sickness there, having been previously affected with the Diarrhoea, and that others who died there are stated to have died from Diarrhœa, are those the Cases which you think occurred during the Time you attended the Workhouse?
I am aware that some of those sent to Petherton died, but I am not prepared with their Names; I never saw them afterwards.

They went away from the Workhouse with the Diarrhœa?
Yes.

Did they all go with the Diarrhœa?
I really cannot say.

Do you apprehend all those Cases stated as Measles were Cases of Measles, and not Cases of Diarrhœa, or do you suppose they were Cases of Diarrhœa followed by Measles?
I should imagine from this Return they were Cases of Measles.

Supposing they had had the Diarrhœa before, and that they were then attacked by Measles, were they not more likely to die?
Undoubtedly.

Do you know that those Persons were attacked by Diarrhœa before? Elizabeth Brown, aged Two Years and a Half; do you know that she was attacked with Diarrhœa before?
No, I do not.

Were they affected with White Mouth?
We had a few Cases of White Mouth.

What does that proceed from?
Very commonly from the irritable State of the Bowels.

Mr. J. E. Poole.

Such a State as would precede Diarrhœa?
Yes.

Do you believe Elizabeth Brown had the White Mouth?
I do not recollect.

Do you know whether all those sent to Petherton Workhouse had the Diarrhœa?
I know that many of them had.

If they had the Measles afterwards they were very likely to die?
Yes.

You considered the Locality of this Workhouse at Bridgwater very unhealthy?
Yes, very unhealthy.

Had you any Persons there attacked with Diarrhœa, or those other Complaints, that were not in the habit of taking Gruel?
They were all in the habit of taking Gruel throughout the House, I imagine.

Was the Governor ill whilst you were there?
He was.

Was he in the habit of taking Gruel?
He took it to try the Effect of it.

And his Family also?
I cannot say; but I heard him say that he took it several Times; that it was very pleasant, but that it produced Diarrhœa; he took Sugar with it, and made it very pleasant.

Still it produced Diarrhœa?
Yes, and he was very ill, for he went to Bath or Clifton for Change of Air.

Was that the Case with his Children also?
Yes.

After some Persons had been sent away from the Workhouse, did they send in any other Patients?
Yes; they were constantly being sent in.

Did you remonstrate against that?
Yes, frequently, to the Visiting Committee.

Was that Remonstrance attended to?
No; they were not sent so frequently after that, but some were sent in.

Was not it dangerous to send them into a Workhouse where those Persons had died?
Yes; we had not Room for them.

Did you remonstrate with the Visiting Committee?
Yes; Mr. King did also, in my Presence.

Did that make any Alteration in the Number sent in?
They did not come in so frequently.

What was the greatest Number in the Workhouse?
I cannot say.

Do you know the greatest Number in it when it was used as the Bridgwater Workhouse?
I think 105.

What was it reported as capable of holding?
I cannot say; I never heard.

What was the Name of the Master of the Workhouse who you say had taken the Diarrhœa?
Govier, William. I believe his Wife lived at the House with him at the Time.

Mr. J. E. Poole.

Is he still the Governor of the Workhouse?
No, he is not.

A great many of those that came after you had remonstrated died?
Yes.

Where does Govier live?
He lives at Bridgwater; he is a Sail Maker.

Did the Persons who came in eat of this Gruel also?
Yes.

Diarrhœa is not infectious, is it?
Not in a general Way. I think the Health is very much injured by coming into such a confined House, and that they had taken the Disease. The Children were lying Five and Six in a Bed.

The House was too confined?
Too thickly populated; we had the Children Four and Six in a Bed.

The Illness might have arisen from other Causes than the Gruel?
I think the Gruel was the immediate Cause. Their Health was injured by being brought into so confined a House, where were so many diseased Persons.

Was there any other Disease prevailing?
No; it was principally Cases of Diarrhœa. There were also some old Persons, such as there always are in Workhouses.

The Diet Table is one of the Diet Tables recommended by the Poor Law Commissioners, is it not?
I believe so.

Was not the Medical Attendant allowed to prescribe what he liked for Infants under Seven Years of Age, and for aged People above Sixty, in that Diet Table?
I never read the Diet Table. I am not aware whether there is any such Reservation. I believe if they order any Comforts for old People in the House that has been occasionally attended to.

Has not that been always attended to?
Not always.

In what Instances has it not been attended to?
I recollect that I have said to the Master I should like these Children not to take the Gruel, but to see whether they would not do better on Bread and Butter, but they have gone on in that Way daily.

If you had looked at the Diet Table you would have seen that the Medical Officer was entitled to order what he thought fit for the old People and the young; were not you aware of that?
I did that occasionally myself.

Have you for old People and young Children made an Alteration in the Diet Table of your own Authority?
I have latterly, I think.

Why did you not in the first instance?
I do not think I was in attendance when the Diarrhœa commenced.

You came to the Belief that the Diarrhœa was owing to the Gruel; and with respect to the old People and the Children you had the Power to change the Diet; why did you not immediately on believing that change their Diet?
I did not know that I had Power to order them any thing I wished. I knew I could order little Things for them; I thought I could not alter the Diet of the House generally. Certainly I might have altered it for One Individual, or Two, or Three; given them some Sugar in their Gruel, or given them a little Bread and Butter, if I thought fit.

Did you not know that you had the Power at once to change the whole Diet if you thought fit, if the Individual was sick?
I believed I had some Power, but to what Extent I did not know; I did not think that I had the Power to alter the Diet in the House generally.

Mr. J. E. Poole.

As a Professional Man, do you think yourself justified in undertaking the Charge of any Patients where you had not a Right to prescribe the Diet that was necessary for them?

I think I had a Right to do so certainly; we had an undoubted Right to do so.

Did you make any Complaint, when you exercised that Right, that your Instructions were not followed?

I have frequently found the Mistress of the Workhouse had not attended strictly to my Orders; I have asked the Reason, and she answered that she could not do it without the Permission of the Committee.

Did you report that to the Board of Guardians?

No.

Can you state the Name of any One Case in which that happened by Name?

No, I cannot, by Name.

Did that strike you as an Omission likely to have bad Consequences?

It did; and I mentioned it to the Master once.

Did you not think it right and necessary to report to the Board of Guardians when you found the Mistress not following the Course which you thought essential to the Health of the Persons whom you had under your Care?

I did not, because I mentioned it to the Committee myself frequently, and Mr. King also.

When you found that the Visiting Committee paid no Attention to your Complaint, did you not think it necessary to complain to the Board?

The Complaint was attended to after a short Time.

The Complaint you made was not immediately attended to, you say?

No; I had no Opportunity but once a Week to apply to them.

Had you not an Opportunity each Week to apply to the Board of Guardians if you thought fit?

Yes; but I did not think it necessary when I had mentioned it to the Visiting Committee.

Though the Visiting Committee had neglected to attend to your Complaint?

We were not aware of that; we do not attend the Board on every Occasion.

You found that your Orders were not complied with?

Yes; in several Instances.

Notwithstanding that you never thought it necessary to make a Complaint to the Board of Guardians?

Only through the Committee. I concluded that the Board would not sanction it. They have sent frequently to request my Attendance in the Workhouse to meet the Visiting Committee to make my Report.

You did not attend the Board of Guardians?

Never on that Subject.

You would take it for granted that if you communicated that which you thought right, and they said they should report it to the Board of Guardians, they would do so?

Yes.

You have said that the Moment a written Complaint was made by Mr. King of the Dietary it was altered?

Yes; I believe it was in the course of a few Days.

When they returned to that which you considered a mischievous Diet, and bad Consequences ensued, you made Complaint of it to the Visiting Committee?

Yes.

Was it remedied again immediately?

Yes, I believe it was, very soon after.

Mr. J. E. Poole.

What was the Alteration made in the Dietary?
We gave them Rice and Milk instead of Gruel.

Did they stop the Gruel altogether on one Occasion?
I believe the whole was stopped.

Do you think in a Case of Life and Death you did sufficient in telling the Visiting Committee that you thought there should be an Alteration in the Diet?
That was my Impression, that the Visiting Committee met me to receive my Report, and as I made the Report to them when they were going to the Board Room, I thought I had done my Duty.

Did you meet the Visiting Committee the Day that the Board of Guardians met?
Yes, always; they met and then went to the Board Room.

Can you tell in what Form you made this Complaint to the Visiting Committee?
I do not recollect the precise Words.

Did you tell them those People were suffering very much from the Diet, and it was essentially necessary the Diet should be altered?
I did, or Words to that Effect.

Had you repeatedly told them that during those Weeks in October?
I am not clear as to Dates, but during the Time I attended I can say confidently I had.

You attended during Four Months?
Yes.

Was that during the whole of those Four Months?
Not the whole, perhaps.

When did you begin attending?
I think in the End of October.

It was not in the End of October the Gruel was left off?
I may be wrong as to the Dates; I could have been prepared with the Dates if I had known the Subject of my Examination, but I have not got my Book with me.

What Book could you have referred to to give you Certainty as to Dates?
I could refer to the Weekly Return for the Week in question.

Inasmuch as this Complaint was made during the Prevalence of a certain Disease, you could by reference to your Book know the Period at which you made this Complaint?
I suppose my weekly Return would correct me, or pretty nearly.

In the former Part of your Examination you stated that this was going on for Three Weeks before the Alteration of the Dietary in consequence of Mr. King's Letter?
That is what I fear I am wrong in.

Was the Diarrhœa going on, and did you make Complaint of the Gruel producing it for Three Weeks previous to Mr. King's having made that Application to the Board of Guardians?
I certainly did some Time, but I am not prepared to say what Time.

That Complaint was dated the 25th of October 1836; was it previous to that that you had found Fault with the Diet?
It must have been, certainly. I have not the Date of the Letter.

It is during that Period you believe that Death arose from Diarrhœa, occasioned in consequence of the Use of Gruel, and of your Complaints not having been attended to?
I do not mean to say that all the Deaths occurred in Three Weeks.

Mr. J. E. Poole.

Did any Deaths which occurred in consequence of the Gruel occur during the Three Weeks which preceded Mr. King's Application in consequence of which the Diet was changed?

I cannot answer as to Dates; Mr. King I am sure will be able to do it quite satisfactorily.

Did Mr. King attend them at the Time?

Yes; he went through the House with me, and made a Report to the Board; and every Communication went through him to the Board. I never wrote to the Board but on the Occasion when I state the Diet was altered, and that the Inhabitants were daily improving.

He compiled the Register of Deaths during that Period from his own Observation?

Yes.

You still adhere to the Statement you have made, that a considerable Number of Deaths took place in consequence of Diarrhœa?

Yes.

And that that Diarrhœa was produced by the Gruel, which was persevered in notwithstanding your Remonstrance?

That is not exactly my Statement; but that the Diarrhœa was produced by the Gruel, and that it continued till some of the People were worn out.

And that that Gruel was continued after you had made Remonstrances?

For a short Time.

It was not continued long after your Remonstrances?

I am not able to recollect exactly how long.

Two or Three Weeks?

I have said Two or Three Weeks.

Supposing the Two or Three Weeks had not elapsed, would that have made a Difference as to their Deaths, or the Deaths of any of those Persons, in your Opinion?

I think their Deaths were owing to that; I can attribute them to no other Cause.

You complained repeatedly to the Visiting Committee?

Yes.

How often in the Week did you see the Visiting Committee?

Only once a Week.

Repeated Complaints to the Visiting Committee had been made, and they were made not more frequently than once a Week?

No; I should imagine not more than that.

Was there Complaint made to the Matron?

Yes, repeatedly.

Supposing the Visiting Committee had reported it to the Guardians, and the Guardians had made an immediate Alteration in the Diet, you are of opinion that the Illness of some of those Persons would have been stopped?

I am.

Can you point out the Names?

I cannot.

Would you apply that Observation to Infants or adult Persons, between Sixteen and Sixty, or above Sixty?

It affected both the old People and the Infants.

You believe that Mr. King did represent it to the Board?

I so understood.

Did you complain to the Visiting Committee, or did Mr. King?

Both of us.

You both complained to the Visiting Committee?

Both of us did.

Mr. J. E. Poole.

He also communicated to the Board?
Yes.

Do you attend the preent Workhouse?
No.

Who attends the present Workhouse?
A Gentleman of the Name of Ward.

Is he a Person lately come into Bridgwater?
Yes.

Can you state the Names of any of the Visiting Committee to whom you made this Representation?
No, I cannot; they were changed every Week.

Cannot you recollect the Names of the Gentlemen to whom you represented that Persons were dying of this Disease every Week, and who took no Notice of that Representation?
I cannot.

Did you not think it very strange that they should take no Notice of your Representation?
I did think it very strange.

Were you acquainted with the Guardians who attended?
I knew a great many of them.

Do you know several of the ex-officio Guardians?
Yes.

And several of those elected Guardians?
Yes.

Some of them were Members of the Visiting Committee?
Yes, certainly they were.

Do you recollect whether Mr. Bouverie was ever one of the District Visiting Committee?
I never saw him there.

Mr. Strangways?
No.

Mr. Meade King?
I think he may have been there; but I cannot say.

How many Guardians were there altogether?
About Forty-six.

How many of those attend weekly?
Generally about Thirty, I should think.

Of how many of those did the Visiting Committee consist?
I am not prepared to state that. Of about Half a Dozen, perhaps.

They were changed every Week?
Yes.

Was the Diarrhœa at the Period you have been speaking of confined entirely to the House, or was it in the Town?
I had very few Cases of Diarrhœa; scarcely any in the Country; a few Cases in the Town.

It was not a prevalent Disorder at the Time in the Neighbourhood?
It was not, in my Practice.

Did you ever taste the Gruel?
I have done.

Could you discover any thing in it which should cause this Disorder?
No; I thought it always tasted poor and disagreeable, but I could not tell from what Cause.

Mr. J. E. Poole.

Did there appear plenty of Oatmeal in it?
Yes.

Oatmeal is of a very purgative Quality, is it not?
Yes.

Probably in that Country the People are not accustomed to that Diet?
I fancy they are not.

Probably the Effect would be very different as to those who were accustomed to use it, and those who were not?
Certainly; in many Counties they use it very largely.

Then their Bowels would get accustomed to it?
Probably they might.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned to Thursday next, Twelve o'Clock.

Die Jovis, 14° *Junii* 1838.

The Lord WHARNCLIFFE in the Chair.

Mr. ROBERT UNDERDOWN is called in, and further examined as follows:

WHAT Books have you got there?
I have got the Minute Book, the Letter Book, the Book in which the Letters are all pasted from the Formation of the Union, and Two or Three Medical Books, all that could be got.

Have you got the Visiting Committee's Book?
I have not.

Have you the Book in which the Answers of the Visiting Committee to the Guardians are inserted?
I have not that here.

From what Book are the Observations in the printed Papers before the Committee taken?
Those Observations are from that Book, meaning the Visitor's Book. There is also a Book called the Visitor's Book, that is for Persons who visit the House; that was not kept till we got into the new House. There was only Half an Hour after the Arrival of my Letter (my Letters did not come to Hand for an Hour or an Hour and a Half after the Mail) to get together the Books which have been sent up by my Son.

What have you now before you?
The Minute Book.

Will you turn to Page 163 of that Book, and read the Resolution respecting the Medical Officers which was then formed?
It is the 26th of May 1837. "Moved by the Reverend N. Ruddock and seconded by K. M. King, Esquire, That no Gentleman who is not at present a Medical Officer under this Union be eligible to fill that Situation unless he has passed his Examination at the Apothecaries Hall, and is also a Member of the College of Surgeons; which Motion, on a Division, was negatived."

Before that had not Notice been given that the Union would proceed to elect Medical Gentlemen for the Districts?
The first Advertisement was dated the 22d of May; the Order was given on the 19th.

When was the Advertisement inserted in the Newspaper?
I do not think it was in the Newspaper; I think it was by Circular Notices sent round to the Medical Officers in the immediate Neighbourhood.

In consequence of that Advertisement did you receive Refusals from the Medical Officers to accept the Situations upon those Terms?
June the 2d a Letter was sent by the Medical Officers.

Can you say, or not, whether the Advertisement was inserted in the Newspaper?
I am not certain; I should think it was, from the Minute that appears in the Minute Book.

What are those other Books you have?
Those other Books are the Medical Report Books; the large one is that in which the Letters are pasted.

Mr. R. Underdown.

Have you any Medical Report during the Period that the Diarrhœa prevailed?
I have the Medical Reports of the Bridgwater Workhouse, I believe, at that Time.

Is there a Medical Report made out every Week by the Medical Officer, and laid before the Board of Guardians?
Yes.

Does the Chairman put his Initials to it?
Not generally, I think.

When did the Diarrhœa begin?
I cannot tell without reference to the Books.

Do you know Mr. Poole?
I do, perfectly.

Did he complain to you that the Diarrhœa was prevailing, or did Mr. King?
Not that I am aware of.

Can you take upon you positively to state that neither Mr. King nor Mr. Poole mentioned to you that the Diarrhœa prevailed?
They may have mentioned it; I cannot charge my Memory with that.

Was it not known that the Diarrhœa did prevail to a very great Degree?
It was, I believe, known that the Diarrhœa prevailed in the House.

Was not it known that the Diarrhœa did prevail to a very great Degree amongst a great Number of Patients, and that many died?
I know nothing of that of my own Knowledge.

Was not it commonly spoken of that the Diarrhœa was prevailing?
I never heard it as a general Report.

Did you not write that Letter now shown to you on the 21st of April 1837?
That is my Letter.

Did you know at that Time that it prevailed?
Certainly, I knew it at that Time; I knew it from the Visiting Committee having so reported it at the Board.

From whom did you receive the Report?
It was reported at the Board by the Committee.

Then the Board knew it as well as you?
Yes.

You wrote that Letter by Order of the Board?
Yes.

Was not it well known at the Time that the Diarrhœa prevailed, and that Sixty Persons were affected?
I can speak only from the Minutes. My Engagements are very pressing, and I cannot bear every thing in mind.

Were you present when Mr. Abraham King, the Medical Officer, attended the Board, on the 21st of April 1837?
Yes. I never was absent on a Board Day.

Do you remember that he confirmed the Report of the Visiting Committee that the Paupers, above Sixty, who were allowed Tea and Sugar did not suffer from Diarrhœa so much as those who were dieted on Gruel?
That I recollect perfectly well.

Did he recommend that Rice should be substituted for Gruel?
Yes, I believe he did.

Had the Diarrhœa continued to any considerable Extent for any Length of Time before that?
From my own Knowledge I cannot state that.

Will you refer to the Minute Book to see whether it appears from the Book that for some Time previous to April 1837 the Diarrhœa had prevailed in the Workhouse to a considerable Extent?
There is a Minute of Mr. King's Attendance, and what he said upon the Subject.

Mr. R. Underdown.

Is there not an Entry in the Minute Book of the 25th of October 1836?
There is no Date in the Minute Book of the 25th of October.

What was the nearest Day to the 25th that the Guardians met?
The 27th.

Have you got with you the Book which records the Health of the Paupers from the 21st of April 1837 for Five or Six Months backwards?
The Medical Returns I have with me, but I have not got the Visitor's Book; those Books are in the Possession of the Medical Officers; I only see them Week by Week when the Board meets.

Whose Book is that now shown to you?
The Medical Officer's.

Who was the Medical Officer?
Mr. King was the Medical Officer at that Time for the Bridgwater Workhouse.

He is in attendance?
He is.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Mr. Abraham King.

Mr. ABRAHAM KING is called in, and examined as follows:

YOU are a Surgeon?
I am.

Where do you reside?
At Bridgwater.

How long have you been in practice at Bridgwater?
Three Years last February.

You were appointed a Medical Officer to one of the Districts in the Bridgwater Union?
I was.

What was it?
The Bridgwater District.

Had you charge of the Workhouse?
Yes, that belonging to Bridgwater.

There was another Workhouse at Petherton?
There was.

Who attended that?
Mr. Tilsley.

When were you first appointed to the Medical Charge of the Bridgwater District?
Before Midsummer 1836.

What Population had you under your Charge?
8,833, I think.

What was your Salary?
£100.

You served as Medical Officer during the Year up to June 1837?
I was assisted by Mr. Poole; I was occasionally ill, and he did my Duty.

You were the Medical Officer?
I was the principal Medical Officer.

In May 1837 other Terms were proposed to you?
Yes.

Mr. Abraham King.

They made some Alteration with respect to the Numbers in the different Districts?
They did.

Upon that Occasion were you offered the Bridgwater Parish again?
It was advertised.

It was open to any one to offer?
I wrote a Letter to the Board, stating that I could not take it on the Terms they offered; after they advertised I offered for the Bridgwater District.

What were the Terms they offered?
They offered for the Bridgwater District 70*l.* for a Population of 7,807.

Did you write a Letter individually, or a joint Letter with other Persons?
I wrote a Letter myself, and got some of my Medical Friends to sign it.

In fact, you wrote the Letter now shown you?
It was not exactly in those Words; but I formed a Letter somewhat similar; it was slightly altered by some of the others; I signed it as it appears.

Was that Letter which appears in Page 61 of the Papers before this Committee the Letter to which you signed your Name?
Yes.

In consequence of that Letter was any thing done by the Guardians; did they make any Answer to that?
No. I heard from Reports that the Board of Guardians made use of very strong Terms against us.

Where did you hear that?
It came from some of the Guardians.

Those other Gentlemen who signed a Sort of Approval of your Letter, were none of them Medical Officers under the Union?
No.

How came they to sign this Addition to your Letter?
Being nearly all of us young Men, we considered it desirable to take the Advice of our Seniors; I for one was very anxious at all Times to avail myself of such Experience as we could obtain from them, and I requested Mr. Parker to take the Letter as first written, which was altered somewhat, and it was taken to the old Practitioners of the Town; they concurred in our Views, and added a Postscript.

Was there any Association of Medical Persons at Bridgwater formed before you wrote that Letter?
Certainly not.

You merely laid the Letter before those other Gentlemen as being your Seniors, to see how far they approved of it?
Yes.

In writing this Letter you were not acting under the Direction of any Association?
Not at all.

What Period elapsed between the Time of your sending that Letter and it being sanctioned by the additional Signatures of the Nine Medical Gentlemen which appear at the Bottom of Page 62?
It was immediate.

Both those Letters were signed previous to the Letter which you wrote and sent to the Board of Guardians on the 6th of June 1837?
I think the Signatures of the old Gentlemen were added as a Postscript to the Letter.

Very shortly after that you and the other Six Gentlemen who signed with you sent in a Letter on the 6th of June to the Chairman of the Board of Guardians of the Bridgwater Union?
Yes; that Letter was in consequence of our not getting a Reply.

How

Mr. Abraham King.

How came the first Letter not to be dated?
It only shows that we were not Men of Business. I cannot answer that in any other Way.

It was in point of fact written on the 2d of June, as appears by your Letter of the 6th of June?
Yes.

Would there not have been the same Opinion expressed in that Letter in any Part of that Year, whatever might have been the Date of that Letter?
During 1836 and 1837, I repeatedly stated to some of the Guardians how very inadequately I was remunerated. I stated at the Time that I was sinking Money by it; and at the End of the Year, after receiving expressly a Promise from the Chairman that we should be consulted as to the Amount of our Duties, this Circular was issued, offering me my District, a Population of 7,800, for 70*l.* a Year.

Were not you consulted with respect to the Population of the Districts?
No.

Were not you called before the Board, and told that the Guardians intended to alter the Districts in the Manner stated in the Advertisement of the 22d of June?
We were called before the Board relative to the Alteration of the Districts. I was then about to make a few Observations relative to my District, and the Chairman instantly stopped me; it was touching on the Register Act; being the Registrar of the District, how convenient it would be to have a certain Parish thrown into my District; and the Chairman said, "That is foreign to the Subject, Mr. King, and we cannot hear it."

What were the Subjects on which you were summoned?
Simply to give our Opinions as to the Convenience of the Districts.

The Chairman stopped you because you were proceeding to bring in the Subject of Registration?
Yes.

Mixing the Registration with the Medical Attendance?
Yes, but I was going on; had not the Chairman stopped me I should have gone fully into my Objections to the District; but in consequence of being stopped, and being rather nervous, I did not address him afterwards; he cut me rather short.

Was it with respect to the Convenience of the Districts you were about to speak, or the Salaries?
The Convenience of the Districts.

You were summoned for the Purpose of being consulted about that?
We were. Before that my District was Bridgwater, Chedzoy, Durleigh, Wembdon, and Chilton Trinity. I am Registrar of that District. I was about to state to Mr. Warry that it would be very convenient to throw in the Parish of Chedzoy with the Parish of Bridgwater, on account of my being Registrar, as I could do the Duty more conveniently than another Person; but he stopped me in consequence of hearing the Word "Registration."

Your Suggestion was made with a view to adjusting the Registration System rather than altering the Medical District?
It would have assisted me as well, provided I had taken the District.

The Day you attended, pursuant to the Order of the Guardians, was the 18th of May, was not it?
Yes.

Was there any Conversation at that Time with respect to your Salaries?
None whatever.

Did you ever express yourself, or did your Colleagues express themselves, satisfied with the Salaries they had received in the previous Year?
They never said any thing upon the Subject.

Mr. Abraham King.

Were they ever asked?
They were never asked. I had expressed to many of the Guardians, during the Year, how very inadequately I was remunerated.

But upon that Occasion you were not asked upon the Subject, and said nothing upon the Subject?
In consequence of being stopped by the Chairman I did not enter into any thing further.

You have stated that you were not satisfied with your Salary; were the other Medical Officers, to your Knowledge, satisfied or dissatisfied with the Salaries they had received the preceding Year?
I have heard them complain.

Did not they sign a Letter with you, expressing their Dissatisfaction?
They did.

As far as you had an Opportunity of knowing their Opinions, were they satisfied or dissatisfied?
Dissatisfied.

Have you had Opportunities of conversing with them upon the Subject?
Yes.

Are you prepared to say whether they were satisfied or dissatisfied with the Terms the preceding Year?
I can say that some were dissatisfied.

Can you speak to the Names?
Mr. Poole was dissatisfied; Mr. Caswell, Mr. Tilsley, Mr. Baruch Toogood.

Mr. Ruddock?
I never heard him express an Opinion.

Mr. Addison?
I never heard him express an Opinion.

Whatever their Opinions may be, are you of opinion the Salaries were not sufficient to enable you to do Justice to the Poor?
As far as my District was concerned, certainly not.

You have stated that to the Guardians?
Yes, to some of them.

Did you ever state that to the Board itself?
I was never called upon by the Board to state any thing upon the Subject, and never did. I was not allowed to be present at the Board.

All the Surgeons attended that Meeting on the 18th of May?
Yes.

They did not present themselves singly before the Board of Guardians, but the whole of them were present in the Room at the same Time?
Yes.

Did any of the other Medical Gentlemen then present make any Observations as to the Amount of their Salaries on that Occasion?
None whatever. The only Observation that was made on that Day was an Observation from Mr. Tilsley relative to Midwifery. That was not in connexion with the Salaries.

There was no Question put to them with reference to their Opinion on the Amount of their Salary?
No.

Had the Board any Means of knowing, from any Statement made to them by the Surgeons on that Occasion, that they were dissatisfied with the Salaries?
Many of them knew it. We did not state it then, not being spoken to upon the Subject.

Mr. Abraham King.

Did the Gentlemen express their Dissatisfaction to the Guardians in your Presence?
No; simply in the Conversation I may have had with them.

Were there any Questions put to you with respect to the Result of your Experience in those Districts as to the Amount of Duty you had to perform?
No Question at all. The only Question with which I can tax my Memory at present was, when we were about to leave, the Chairman put the Question, whether we were perfectly satisfied.

Perfectly satisfied with what?
I never rightly understood what he meant.

Did you consult with your Colleagues, and understand from them what their View was?
No; we were about to leave the Room, and we separated; we never consulted upon the Subject.

You did not conceive that to refer to the Salaries?
Not after the Chairman said to me that it was foreign to the Subject.

You were called before the Guardians to be consulted or be made acquainted with the new geographical Arrangement of the Districts?
Yes.

You confined yourself entirely to that in consequence of having been stopped by the Chairman when you wanted to refer to some other Subject?
Yes.

Therefore you did not make any Observation expressive either of Satisfaction or Dissatisfaction, except such as would bear upon the geographical Distribution of the Districts?
No.

When they told you the geographical Distribution, did they not state the Salary it was proposed each Medical Man was to receive?
I believe the Salaries were not fixed at that Time.

Was any thing said of this Sort, that it was not intended to take the Salaries into consideration that Day?
I do not recollect any thing of the Kind.

Will you refer to your Letter in Page 62, and say whether it is not stated that there was a distinct Declaration made to some of the undersigned that it was not intended to take the Medical Salaries into consideration on that Day?
The Declaration was not made to me.

Who composed that Letter which you appear to have signed?
Mr. Baruch Toogood brought it to me: I concurred in the principal Part of it.

You did not concur in the whole?
This Declaration was not made to me; I believed the Gentleman that the Declaration had been made to him.

That was Mr. Toogood?
Yes.

Upon your Faith in Mr. Toogood you put your Name to that Letter?
Yes.

Upon what Occasion — or has there been on any Occasion any thing like an Intimation that at the End of the First Year, which would be necessarily a Year of Probation and Inquiry, the Question of the Salaries would be reconsidered?
Yes, there was.

How was that conveyed to you?
From the Chairman the First Year.

Mr. Abraham King.

From the Chairman sitting at the Board?
Yes.

Who was the Chairman?
Mr. Warry.

When the Circular was issued with the new Salaries and the new Distribution you had not been examined at all with respect to your Experience during the former Year?
We had not.

That you conceived to be unjust towards yourselves?
I did so, certainly.

In the Bridgwater District your poor Patients were within a reasonable Distance of you; how far had you to go?
The extreme Point, Chedzoy, was about Three Miles.

You had been in Practice for a Year in the same Place?
Yes.

Had you kept a Horse?
I had Parishes before, and kept a Horse for that Purpose.

You had contracted for some Parishes before the new Law?
Yes.

For what Parishes?
Bawdrip and Bridgwater.

Do you know the Population of those Parishes?
Bridgwater about 7,800, and Bawdrip about 250 or 300, I should imagine.

What were you paid under the old Poor Law for those Parishes as the Medical Attendant?
£100 for the Parish of Bridgwater, and 6*l.* for the Parish of Bawdrip; and all Extras, such as Midwifery and Fractures, in the Parish of Bawdrip were extra. The last Bill I received from them was 26*l.*, 6*l.* of which was Salary.

Was that when you were united with Mr. Parker and Mr. Poole in a certain Number of Parishes in the Neighbourhood of Bridgwater?
Yes.

Did the Two Parishes you have named form the whole District you undertook?
Yes.

You were united with Two other Gentlemen in superintending the Medical Care of a larger District than that you have just mentioned?
I will state how the Parish of Bridgwater stood; we divided the Duties between us.

How many Parishes had you, Three altogether?
We had only One divided between us, all the others were distinct.

You contracted separately for other Parishes, but the Parish of Bridgwater was taken between you?
Yes.

When you say the Salary of Bridgwater was 100*l.*, did you receive 100*l.* and the other Gentleman receive any thing also?
No; it was 100*l.* between us.

That covered the Midwifery Cases and Surgical Cases?
Yes, with the Exception of suspended Orders, which we had extra.

In that Year what did you get upon suspended Orders?
I cannot answer that.

Was it considerable or trifling?
The Parish of St. Decuman's used to pay Mr. Parker a great deal, but the Amount I cannot say; I never received any thing on suspended Orders myself.

Mr. Abraham King.

Is that One Parish in Bridgwater?
There are a Number of Parishioners living in Bridgwater belonging to the Parish of St. Decuman's, which is near Watchet; they come up to get employed on the Quays.

Mr. Parker had that Part of the Parish, and had therefore all that Advantage?
Yes.

For the Parish of Bridgwater, together with the Parish of Bawdrip, you had first of all a Salary of 6*l.* for Bawdrip, and a Bill which you say amounted to 20*l.*, and One Third of 100*l.*?
Yes.

You kept a Horse during that Time?
I did.

When you had the Poor of the Parish thrown upon you did you require another Horse or did One Horse still do your Business?
The Parish of Bawdrip was taken from me under the new System, and I only required the same Horse.

The Parish of Bawdrip was a very small Parish in point of Population; supposing that to have adjoined to Bridgwater, should you have required more Assistance in the Horse Way?
No; I think a Person might perform the Duties of Bridgwater without a Horse.

You had besides Chedzoy, Wembdon, Durleigh, and Chilton Trinity added to the Parish of Bridgwater?
Yes.

Did those Parishes require a Horse?
Yes.

You could not have attended those Parishes without riding?
No.

Did One Horse answer your Purpose still?
Yes.

Can you give the Committee an Idea of the greatest Number of Patients you ever were called upon to attend in any Week in Bridgwater and those other Parishes?
I think during the Influenza I had to attend, assisted by Mr. Poole, 160.

When was the Influenza you speak of?
In January and February 1837.

In the Average State of Health of the District what do you conceive would be likely to be your Number of Patients?
It would average between Sixty and Seventy; sometimes, of course, it would be less than at others.

How many Days in the Week do you reckon you would have been occupied in visiting the sick Paupers in the District?
Every Day in the Week.

You would of course have some independent Patients besides?
Very few.

Your Employment was almost entirely confined to those Persons?
Nearly so.

Does this Book now shown to you relate to the Bridgwater District, or only the Workhouse?
At the Commencement the Bridgwater District and the Workhouse were entered together in the same Book; some few Months afterwards there was a separate Book provided.

Mr. Abraham King.

Do you recollect the Date when you left off entering the Patients in the Workhouse in the same Book?

25th March 1837. This Book now shown to me appears to be the Workhouse Book from the 25th of March 1837.

Are the Workhouse Patients included in your Average?
Yes.

Can you give the Committee any Idea of the Average Expense incurred in Medicines for each Patient?

I have taken an Extract from the British Medical Almanac; and for a Number of Infirmaries and Hospitals it is averaged at about 2*s.* 1*d.* or 2*s.* 2*d.* per Case.

Do you concur in the Opinion expressed in that Medical Almanac?

I should think about 2*s.* 3*d.* a Case is about the Truth; I am speaking from Recollection.

Do you mean for Medicines only?
Yes.

Do you include Cases of Midwifery in that Calculation?
Certainly not.

Do you consider that there are on the Average Sixty or Seventy Cases of Patients per Week throughout the Year?

I can give the Quarterly Return. For Nine Months that I attended there were 1,200 Patients; take One Third more, that will give yearly 1,600 Patients; that would give me about 1*s.* 3*d.* per Case.

Is that now shown you the Book from the Beginning of the Union?
Yes.

It comprehends the Parish as well as the Workhouse?
Yes.

Can you tell when it ceased to comprehend the Parish as well as the Workhouse?

From the 25th of March 1837 the Book now shown me became the Outdoor Book.

What would the Medicine for that District, when contracted for at 70*l.* a Year, cost you?

I have not calculated that.

In the Year before did you ever make out what the Medicines for your Third of the Parish of Bridgwater and the Parish of Bawdrip cost you?

No, I have made no Calculation; taking it upon the whole Number on the Quarterly Returns, many of the Cases passed on from one Quarter to another; therefore that does not give a correct Return of the Number of Cases I attended.

Do you know the total Number of Patients you attended in the course of the Year while you attended the Parishes of Bridgwater and Bawdrip?

I cannot say.

Under the Union, what was the total Number of Cases you attended in the District of Bridgwater in the course of the Year?

The only Way in which I can state that is by giving the Quarterly Returns, but I find I have not got them here.

Do you think that there were on the Average Sixty per Week throughout that Year?
Yes.

When you received the Third Part of 100*l.*, and what you have stated from the Parish of Bawdrip besides, did that remunerate you for the Patients you were called upon to attend to there?

Considering that it was Parish Business, and looking upon it in the light of Parish Business, and as an Introduction, we considered it as such.

Mr. Abraham King.

Do you mean to say that with the Salary under the old Law you would not have undertaken it but for its being an Introduction to other Practice?
Certainly not.

You would not have taken it as a Source of Profit?
Certainly not; there was no Profit.

When you took the Parish of Bridgwater and other Parishes under the new Poor Law, what was your Motive for taking them at a less Salary than under the old Poor Law?
I took it in the same Way as an Introduction, and expecting at the End of the Year a liberal Advance.

You took it not only as an Introduction to other Practice, but as a Means of acquiring additional Experience?
Yes, we acquire Experience, certainly; but I do not think that entered my Mind at the Time.

What Age were you at that Time?
At the Time I took the Union I was Five or Six and twenty.

When was it you altered your Opinion, and declined to take the Bridgwater Parish under the Contract at a Salary of 70*l.* a Year, you having taken it before under a Salary which you say did not remunerate you; why did you not continue to take that Parish at the 70*l.* a Year?
It was so far reduced; 30*l.* a Year cut off from 100*l.*

Do you mean to say that the Circumstance of its being an Introduction was not sufficient to balance the Reduction?
I thought not at the Time.

Do you still continue to think so?
Yes.

Was not the Population which was to be committed to your Care reduced as well as the Salary?
Yes, certainly.

Did not the 100*l.* also comprehend the Workhouse?
Part of the Workhouse only.

The Workhouse in Bridgwater?
Yes.

Did the Business for which you were to be paid the 70*l.* comprehend the Petherton Workhouse?
Certainly not.

That was taken out as well as 1,000 of the Population?
Not quite 1,000, I think.

Looking back at it, do you still think that if you had continued to serve the Union at a Salary of 70*l.* for the Bridgwater Parish only you would not have been remunerated by that Salary?
Certainly not.

You would still adhere to the Refusal you then made?
Yes.

Do you think any Gentleman would take it at that Rate who would do Justice to the Paupers?
I should not be surprised if there were Persons to be found who would take it.

It is taken?
It is let at 100*l.* a Year.

The Parish of Bridgwater alone?
Yes; and 30*l.* a Year for the Workhouse added to it.

With the same Reduction of Population?
Yes.

Mr. Abraham King.

Do you mean to say that the Parish alone is let at 100*l.* a Year, and the Workhouse at 30*l.* more?
Yes.

Who has taken it at 130*l.*?
Mr. Ward.

Was he then resident in Bridgwater?
No, he was not.

Where did he come from?
It is said from Newcastle-upon-Tyne; but I know not.

He had never been heard of in Bridgwater before that Time?
No.

He took it at 70*l.*?
No.

When he took it, he took it at 100*l.*?
Yes.

Was there any greater District added to it in consequence of his having 100*l.*?
No. I offered myself, in a Letter to the Board, to take it at 97*l.* 11*s.* 9*d.*, that was at 3*d.* a Head on the gross Population, and to give up a Bill of 65*l.* I had upon the Board.

After your Refusal to accept the Offer of the Board, you made an Offer to attend the Poor gratuitously?
Yes.

That was refused?
Yes.

You then made another Offer to attend them as private Patients?
No.

The Bill you offered to give up was for attending them as private Patients?
Yes.

You offered to attend them at 3*d.* a Head on the gross Population, and to give up a Bill contracted under the Direction of the Board?
Yes.

When was that?
At the End of my first Year.

That was before it was let to Mr. Ward?
Yes.

How long after that was it let to Mr. Ward for 100*l.*?
At the End of Three Weeks; the Election took place at that Time. I sent a Letter to the Board, on the Day that the Election was about to take place, expressly stating that I was willing and ready to meet the Board, and that I would take the Parish of Bridgwater at what I considered a remunerating Price. I offered at 97*l.* 11*s.* 9*d.*, it being 3*d.* a Head on the gross Population of the District; and I said in this Letter that I would make them a Present of that Bill provided they elected me, which would show that I had no ill Feeling towards the Board.

Was there any Dispute of your having a just Right to that Bill?
Not the slightest.

Afterwards it was disputed?
Yes.

Did you bring an Action?
No, as I was willing to accede to the Board's Terms in any Way, I gave way to them in every thing.

Are you sure they got that Letter before they proceeded to the Election at which Mr. Ward was elected?
Certainly.

Mr. Abraham King.

Did you receive an Answer to that Letter?
I do not think I did.

Since that Offer to take it at 3*d.* a Head, which would have amounted to 97*l.* 11*s.* 9*d.*, have you had any Communication whatever with the Board of Guardians?
Simply relative to my Bill; I wanted to be paid; I think I wrote, and asked them for Payment.

The other Gentlemen, Mr. Tilsley, Mr. Poole, Mr. Caswell, and Mr. Ruddock, also wrote to the Board offering Terms at the same Time as you did; did not they?
Yes.

And you knew of your own Knowledge that their Letters were delivered before the Board proceeded to the Election of Medical Officers?
I went, with my own Letter and Mr. Caswell's and Mr. Poole's, to the Clerk's Office over Night, and delivered the Letters; I suppose they were read.

How long had you the Care of this Parish under the old Law and the new one?
I had the Parish of Bawdrip One Year before the Formation of the Union. I had the Parish of Bridgwater, in conjunction with Mr. Poole and Parker, from Lady Day 1836 up to Midsummer 1836, and then a Twelvemonth under the new System.

During all that Time was there any Complaint against you?
None at all.

You say the Parish of Bridgwater, though advertised at 70*l.*, is actually let at 100*l.*; can you speak to the Terms on which the other Districts are let?
The Bridgwater District was increased to 100*l.*; the Huntspill District was increased from 40*l* to 50*l.*

That is now taken?
That was taken; Polden and Hill Districts were let at those Salaries fixed here.

Was Middlezoy District continued at 35*l.*?
I cannot answer that Question. North Petherton was increased to 75*l.*

Are they all occupied?
Yes, they were during the Year 1837.

Cannington?
I cannot say.

Stowey?
I cannot answer that; the Union Workhouse, 30*l.*

Do you know whether they are taken by Persons who are duly licensed?
I scarcely know how to answer that Question; Gentlemen are so tenacious of what they mean by the Term licensed. I should not consider myself qualified to take a District unless I was both a Surgeon and Apothecary. Mr. Ward is not, I believe, a Member of the College of Surgeons; I cannot find his Name in the College List; he is an Apothecary. Mr. Phillips, who is in possession of the Polden District, has neither an Apothecary's Certificate nor a Certificate from the College of Surgeons. Mr. Caswell of the Huntspill District was duly qualified. The Hill District; Mr. Young is a Surgeon and not an Apothecary.

Middlezoy?
That is let to Mr. Young; he has Two Districts. North Petherton is with Mr. Tilsley; he is duly qualified in both.

Cannington?
Duly qualified.

Stowey?
Duly qualified.

Mr. Abraham King.

What do you mean by duly qualified; being both Surgeon and Apothecary?
Yes.

Does the Law require that they should be both Surgeons and Apothecaries?
The Poor Law Commissioners say that a Man must be duly licensed to practise.

What do you mean by being a Surgeon; do you mean having passed an Examination at Surgeons Hall?
Yes.

Is a Person qualified to attend Surgical Cases who has no Knowledge of Surgery, and has only passed as an Apothecary?
If he has no Knowledge of Surgery he is not qualified to attend.

Do not Surgical Cases frequently occur?
Certainly.

What you mean to say is, that no Person is duly qualified to be a Surgeon if he has not passed his Examination at Surgeons Hall?
That is my Opinion.

There are Persons who do practise without having passed that?
Yes.

There are Persons who are Apothecaries who practise without having passed at Surgeons Hall?
Yes.

How do those Persons receive their Education?
They pass through the Hospitals, I suppose.

How is it ascertained that they have attended to their Education sufficiently to practise as Surgeons if they do not pass at Surgeons Hall?
We have no Means of ascertaining it except by Certificate of their Practice.

So that if a Person had attended the Hospitals, and so forth, and had not afterwards passed Surgeons Hall, the Public would have no Security that he had gone through the proper Course of Education?
That is a Point of Law I cannot enter into. It is my own Feeling that if I acted as a Surgeon, and I performed any Operation, and it happened to be unfortunate, I should be guilty of Manslaughter.

Is there any one you have not mentioned who is not duly qualified?
I do not think Mr. Addison is a Member of the College.

You do not mean to make any Question of their Fitness; but you mean to say they are not Members of the Two Colleges of Surgeons and Apothecaries?
Yes.

Where did Mr. Phillips come from; is he resident at Bridgwater?
He has been resident many Years in the Neighbourhood; he was in practice before the passing of the Act of 1815.

You say Mr. Tilsley has the North Petherton District?
He has.

You say the Pay for that District is 75*l.*?
I believe it is.

Do you know how Mr. Tilsley, after signing the Letter with you, which you drew up, came to take that District?
Because the Salary was increased.

Did they, at the Time he had it, increase it to 75*l.*, or did he take it at 55*l.*, and has it been since increased to 75*l.*?
The Day on which they elected Mr. Ward at 130*l.* they elected Mr. Tilsley at the advanced Salary of 75*l.* He attended the Patients and provided Medicines, and had a Bill of 15*l.* upon the Board, the whole of which was paid without any Demur.

The

The Bridgwater District, instead of being let for 70*l.*, is let for 30*l.* more, together with 30*l.* for the Workhouse?
Yes.

That 30*l.* includes the new Bridgwater Workhouse, which was not then built?
I had the old Workhouse under my Care.

That contained only a Portion of the Poor?
Yes.

The new Workhouse lately built in Bridgwater contains the whole?
Yes.

Though that new Union Workhouse was not inhabited before you attended there was another Workhouse which has been discontinued?
Yes.

With respect to the North Petherton District, that had been let to Mr. Tilsley before for 63*l.*?
Yes.

The Population he attended to for that 63*l.* was rather more than the Population he has in North Petherton now; was it not?
The First Year he took it for 63*l.*, with a Population of 4,967; the Second Year the Population was reduced to 4,679; for that District he has 75*l.* a Year.

They proposed to pay for that only 55*l.*, and he would not take it?
Just so.

Do you know whether there was any other Offer made for that District?
No, there was not.

You wrote that first Letter, which is without a Date, but which in fact was written or sent on the 2d of June 1837?
I believe I stated to the Committee that I wrote a Letter, the Substance of which this corresponds with; but the Wording is somewhat different.

Did the Gentlemen who signed it, Mr. Tilsley, Mr. Toogood, Mr. Poole, Mr. Ruddock, Mr. Addison, Mr. Caswell, and yourself, all meet together to sign it, or was it signed at different Places?
It was signed by them at their different Houses.

Do you know whether Mr. Jonathan Toogood and the other Gentlemen met together, or whether it was sent round?
I cannot say.

You made the Alterations suggested in the first Draught?
No.

In whose Hands was it after you signed it?
I delivered it to Mr. Parker after I signed it.

You do not know how it went round to the other Gentlemen?
No.

Did not you apply to Mr. Weale, as Poor Law Commissioner of the Union, together with Mr. Poole and Mr. Parker, on the Subject of being appointed Medical Officer to Parts of the District?
I recollect having an Interview with Mr. Weale.

Did you not write that Letter?
No.

Did you not send a Letter to him?
I have no Recollection of having done so.

Were you in Connexion with Mr. Poole and Mr. Parker in attendance on certain Parishes?
Yes; I recollect having an Interview with Mr. Weale.

Mr. Abraham King.

What was the Object of your Interview?
I believe Mr. Parker wished to state to Mr. Weale the great Hardship of his losing so many of his Parishes; but the Conversation I can hardly state, it is so long ago.

And the great Hardship of any young Men being introduced into the District?
I do not recollect the Contents of the Letter.

It has been suggested that the Objection on your Part to taking this District was from a Feeling adverse to the Administration of the Poor Law; is that so?
Quite the contrary.

Was the Objection taken because you thought the Offer made was not a sufficient Remuneration for your Services?
Entirely that.

Can you, for any Continuance, possibly do the Duty required for that Salary without Loss?
Certainly not.

Can you state whether the Poor have in any Manner suffered from the Resolution offering the Appointment at those small Remunerations?
I think the Poor suffered during the Three Weeks that we attended them as private Patients.

In what respect did they suffer?
In some Cases in not getting Relief in proper Time.

There were some Instances of that?
There were.

Were those Instances numerous?
I can state Four or Five Instances where they were refused Relief.

What happened in consequence; did any of them die?
Yes; poor Cook's Child died.

In consequence of being refused Relief?
Yes.

By whom?
The Relieving Officer refused Relief early in the Morning to this poor Child.

When did the Child die?
The following Evening; it was a Case of Croup.

Was that in consequence of the Board of Guardians giving you a less Sum for your Services than you thought yourself entitled to have?
It was during my Attendance on the Poor as private Patients. The Relieving Officers were directed to be sparing in their Orders.

Do you know that?
There is a Letter signed by one of the Relieving Officers in possession of ne of my Friends.

In consequence of that did any Persons suffer?
This poor Child died. The poor Child was taken ill at Seven or Eight in the Morning; I did not see the Child until between Twelve and One o'Clock. Such a Case requires prompt Attention.

Are you aware that the Application was made and refused?
Yes; the Mother came to me, and I sent her back to the Relieving Officer, saying, she ought to have a Doctor.

Upon what Day did she come to you?
The same Morning.

How came you to go afterwards?
I had an Order from the Relieving Officer.

You got an Order from the Relieving Officer?
Yes, afterwards.

How long afterwards?
It was between Twelve and One I saw the Woman again.

At what Time did she first come to you?
Between Nine and Ten.

Had she applied to the Relieving Officer before that?
Yes, as she told me. There is another Case.

She told you the Relieving Officer had refused?
Yes.

You sent her to the Relieving Officer again?
Yes.

How far had she to go?
I suppose from my House to the Patient's House is 400 Yards.

How far had she to go to get the Order from the Relieving Officer?
It may be 100 or 150 Yards.

Was she all the Time between Nine in the Morning and Twelve getting this Order?
I suppose so; I do not know what became of her afterwards.

Your Story is that she applied to you at Nine in the Morning?
Between Nine and Ten.

Did you not say before, not only that she had no Order from the Relieving Officer, but that she told you she had been refused an Order from the Relieving Officer?
Yes.

You sent her back to the Relieving Officer 150 Yards off, and she came with an Order to you between Twelve and One?
The Relieving Officer came and gave me an Order himself, between Twelve and One.

Did he tell you why he had not sent it before?
I do not recollect any Conversation upon the Subject.

If you had been acting for the Board under the Contract, should you have gone more immediately to this young Child with the Croup than you did in the present Case?
We always waited for Orders from the Relieving Officer.

You would have waited, if you had been under Contract, as you did?
Yes.

You did not go till you received the Order from the Relieving Officer?
No.

The Loss of Time between the first Moment of your hearing of it and the Time you did attend was from Ten o'Clock till One?
Between Twelve and One.

Two Hours were lost?
Yes.

Was there any Magistrate in your immediate Neighbourhood?
Yes; there were Magistrates, I think, assembled at the Time.

When the Woman came to you, and you refused to attend because you had not an Order from the Relieving Officer, were you aware of the Nature of the Disease?
No; I cannot say that I was; the Mother said the Child was very ill; the Nature of the Disease I was not aware of till I saw it.

Mr. Abraham King.

You were not aware that it was Croup?
No.

You did not tell the Mother that if the Urgency of the Case was so great, the Magistrates were assembled, and she might apply to them to give you an Order?
I said nothing of the Sort; I told her she must get a Note from the Relieving Officer, and I would immediately attend.

Did you know the Ground of the Relieving Officer's Refusal?
I did not.

Did you know this Person or her Family before?
Yes, very well.

What is the Father?
A Shoemaker.

A Man in Business; not a Pauper?
He is a Pauper; he was attended under the old System.

Has he ever been a Pauper under the Union?
I cannot say.

Was he a Shoemaker in Business?
Working for another Man.

Had not he a Son working with him in Business?
I cannot say.

You do not know that he was a Pauper?
I can only judge from the House or Hovel he was in; he appeared to be in a state of great Destitution.

Do you know what was the Amount of his Earnings?
That would depend upon whether he was a sober and industrious Man.

Is he a sober and industrious Man?
He bears the Character of being a Cockfighter.

Your Evidence goes to show that the Life of the Child was lost from a sufficiently early Attendance not having been given?
That is my Opinion.

But it does not show what were the Circumstances of the Father?
It does not.

Whether he was or not able to pay for Medical Attendance from his own Means you cannot say?
I can only judge by the Appearance of the Hovel.

Did he appear to be in a State of Destitution?
He did; his House was not at all well furnished.

Had he the Appearance of Poverty?
Yes.

Afterwards you got an Order from the Relieving Officer?
Yes.

When Mrs. Cook first applied to you, did she apply to you to attend on the Part of the Parish, or otherwise?
She came and related to me that the Order was refused.

Did she apply to you as a Person who was not a Pauper, to attend on her own Account?
Oh no.

Did you inquire that?
She came to me, relating to me that Mr. Newman had refused her an Order.

Was there any other Case of the same Kind?
Yes; the Case of Mary Winslade; I was called about Ten o'Clock one Night by Sarah Crochford.

Mr. Abraham King.

Was this during the Period you were not regularly attending under your Appointment?

Yes. She stated to me that Mary Winslade was in great Danger, and requested my Attendance. I ordered my Servant to say to her that she was to apply to the Relieving Officer for an Order. She, I believe, I cannot swear that, went to the Relieving Officer; however she did not return, nor did any other Person, till between Twelve and One at Night; I then repeated the same Message to the Relieving Officer, stating that it was a Case of imminent Danger.

Do you mean that you repeated that to the Relieving Officer himself?

No. I considered that it was necessary to obtain an Order; for, from her Account, the Case required prompt Attention.

You sent a verbal Message?

Yes.

What happened upon that?

Mr. Newman, the Relieving Officer, sent his Wife to ascertain whether it was a Case requiring immediate Attention. She came back in great Haste to me, and begged I would hurry to the Spot, for she thought the Woman was in a very dangerous State. When I came I found her flooding. I found her in an extreme State of Syncope, and scarcely a Pulse to be felt; the whole Bed-clothes deluged with Blood; but with proper Measures I succeeded in arresting the Hemorrhage, and gave them some Money to get Brandy and other Necessaries, and restored her. In the Morning I returned again, and I was obliged to deliver her to save her Life; but from the Loss of Blood she became a Maniac, and I believe has since been in a Madhouse for Eight Months.

If she had had more prompt Assistance do you think that would have been likely to have prevented her falling into the State you have described?

Yes; she was in a State of Delirium when I came there first.

Who was this Woman?

She was the Wife of a Sailor, I think.

Was he a Pauper?

Oh yes, very poor indeed.

Had she applied to the Relieving Officer?

She sent to the Relieving Officer that Night twice before I went, I believe.

You say you believe?

I told them to go.

You do not know that they did go to the Relieving Officer?

No.

Did you ever receive an Order from the Relieving Officer to go?

Mrs. Newman came back, after seeing her in this State of Danger, and requested me to hurry there, and said that in the Morning Mr. Newman should give me an Order. Upon that I hastily went.

Did you get an Order from Mr. Newman in the Morning?

Yes.

Did he give any Reason why he had not attended to your Application earlier?

I do not think I had any Conversation with him.

How much Time was lost after you sent the Message before you received the Order?

Two Hours and a Half?

How far does he live from you?

About 150 or 200 Yards.

If there had been immediate Attention given, you might have gone there in a few Minutes?

Yes.

Mr. Abraham King.

You were ordered by the Board not to attend in any Case without a written Order?
Yes.

That was the Reason you did not go immediately on Sarah Crochford coming to you?
Yes.

If you had known she was in great Danger, should you have refused to go immediately?
Yes; for Mr. Caswell had attended a Person in his District under such Circumstances, and the Board refused Payment.

Do you know the Name of that Case?
No.

Are you Partner with Mr. Ruddock?
No.

If you had been under a Contract should you then have attended without any Order at all?
No.

Under the Contract, if the Husband of this Woman had been in the Receipt of Parochial Relief, you would then have attended without an Order; would you not?
Not in a Case of Midwifery.

Not if you had been told that she was in great Danger, and in a State of Hemorrhage?
In consequence of the Refusal of Payment to Mr. Caswell, I should not. He went to attend such a Case as that, and afterwards applied for Payment, and was refused.

Was he under Contract at the Time?
Yes.

Have you known other Cases in which the Poor have suffered in consequence of Delay?
I have known Persons refused and delayed the Relief they ought to have had earlier.

Has Suffering resulted from the Delay?
Yes.

Are you a Member of the Medical Association which has published a Pamphlet, intituled "Facts connected with the Medical Relief of the Poor in the Bridgwater Union," in which there is a Statement relating to the Case of Charlotte Allen?
Yes; but I know nothing of that Case.

Can you justify the Imputation of Manslaughter upon the Guardians of the Union in reference to a Case with which you are wholly unacquainted?
I know nothing of the Case of Charlotte Allen; but the Facts were supplied by another Medical Gentleman.

You have stated that you sent in a Tender to the Board for an Attendance on the Bridgwater District at 3*d.* a Head?
Yes.

And you were a little surprised it was not accepted?
I did not express any Surprise.

Do you know the Reason they did not accept your Offer?
I cannot tell; I suppose on the Dislike they had towards me. I cannot account for their Conduct at all; their Conduct was quite inexplicable.

To what do you attribute that Dislike?
To my not taking the District at 70*l.*, I suppose.

Do you not recollect being asked the Question at the Board, whether you could, if you accepted it, act with other Gentlemen?

No.

There is a Minute to this Effect in Proceedings of the Board on the 14th of July 1837: "Mr. Abraham King was called before the Board, and asked if he was under Obligation to prevent his acting professionally with any Gentleman now acting as a Medical Officer under the Union, and he stated that he was;" do you recollect that taking place?

Certainly a Question was put to me, but not to that Effect. If I recollect, the Question they put was, whether, if I was elected Surgeon to a District, provided Mr. Ward was elected, I would hold any Communication with him; that was what I understood; and I answered, "Certainly not."

Was this the Question: "Whether, in the event of the Appointment of any non-resident Practitioners who offered in consequence of the Advertisements, he would hold any professional Communication with them; and upon his objecting on the Ground that the Gentlemen had been brought forward to oppose him, against whom not the slightest Complaint had been made, he must decline doing so, he was immediately rejected by a small Majority, and One of the new Candidates elected in his Place;" was that the Question?

Yes.

Were you under an Obligation not to act professionally with any Gentleman who should come under those Circumstances into the Union?

I should say not with any one coming down to oppose me in the Way in which he did.

Do you say that you were under Obligation to no other Person?

No, I was not.

Did not you enter into an Agreement with other Medical Gentlemen of Bridgwater not to enter into Communication with such Persons?

That simply applies to Surgeons in the Town.

Did not you bind yourselves together not to enter into Communication with any Gentleman who came into your District?

No; we had only said that we would not act with any who took Districts in opposition to the foregoing Resolutions.

The Witness was informed, That he might decline answering these Questions in case he felt that his Answers could be used against him in a Charge of illegal Combination.

I had no Feeling at all of injuring any Person. We all, when we passed the College of Surgeons, took an Oath, and this is only acting in accordance with that Oath, that we would uphold the Respectability of our Profession; and we dishonour our Profession if we communicate with those who so act.

You wrote a Letter, you said, offering to take the Poor at 3*d.* a Head, on the 16th of June?

Yes.

You say that was delivered on the Morning of the Day on which Mr. Ward was elected?

Yes.

Did you keep that in your Pocket till the 14th of July, when that Election was made?

It was on the final Election that that Offer was made.

You wrote that on the 16th of June, and it appears by the Minutes that your Letter is acknowledged on the 23d of June; the Board do not appear to have proceeded on the Election till the 14th of July, on which Day you were asked the Question which was put to you?

There must be some Mistake in my Mind as to Dates.

The Question, whether you were bound by any Agreement with any other Persons not to enter into Communications with any Persons under special Circumstances, appears to have been put on the 14th of July, which was the Day of Election?

I must be mistaken as to the Dates.

Mr. Abraham King.

Was the Letter sent before or after the Questions you have referred to were put to you?
Before.

You had offered to take the District at 97*l.* 11*s.* 9*d.* before the Election of Mr. Ward?
Yes.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Mr. J. Addison.

Mr. JOSEPH ADDISON is called in, and examined as follows:

ARE you a Surgeon?
I am.

Where do you reside?
At Burrow Bridge, Seven Miles from Bridgwater.

Were you Surgeon of the Middlezoy District from 1836 to 1837?
Yes.

Are you still in charge of the District?
I am not.

The Middlezoy District was not a very large one, containing a Population of 2,365 People?
Yes, 2,560.

What was your Salary?
35*l.* a Year.

In 1837 there was an Alteration made in the Districts?
I believe there was.

There was no Alteration made in the Middlezoy District?
I think not till the following Year.

There was the same Parishes and the same Population as before, according to the Advertisement?
Yes.

The same Salary also was affixed to it?
It was.

How came you not to take it again?
Because I thought it was not sufficient.

How came you to take it the First Year for 35*l.*?
I understood we should not have so much Trouble as we had had under the old Poor Law, therefore I thought I would try it.

Was any thing said to you about a possible Increase in any Way?
No.

You gave it up because you found it did not answer your Purpose?
I did.

Can you state what it cost you in Medicines that Year?
Not exactly for the Poor. I did not keep any Account of the Medicines I gave to the Poor alone, independent of my private Practice.

With respect to keeping a Horse, did it make it necessary for you to keep more Horses than before?
Yes; during the Time I had the District I kept a Horse which I did not, and a Servant which, in consequence of giving up the District, I have left off keeping.

In fact you considered you were a Loser by the Contract?
I considered that keeping a Horse and Servant would cost me 50*l.* a Year.

That you have got rid of by giving up the District?
Yes.

What

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Mr. J. Addison.

What Distance had you to travel?
The furthest Distance I had to go was Four Miles each Way from my House; from one Corner of my District to the other was about Eight Miles.

Can you give any Idea of the Number of Cases weekly you had in that District?
I think, as nearly as I can give it, I had about Sixty or Seventy in the Quarter; in One Quarter I had about Ninety.

There was some epidemic Disorder prevailing, probably in the Quarter in which you had Ninety?
Yes, there was.

You were one of the Parties who signed a Letter to the Chairman of the Board of Guardians on the 2d of June 1837?
Yes; I believe it was that Day.

You signed also a Second Letter of the 6th of June?
I believe I did.

Did you at any Time after that offer to take the District?
Yes, I offered at the Sum of 40*l.*

The same District?
Yes.

When was that?
It was after writing the First and Second Letters.

Was that about the 16th of June?
I think it was, or between the 16th and 24th.

Did you attend when the Election took place afterwards of Medical Officers?
No, I did not; for I was told my Tender was refused.

Who has your District now?
Mr. Young.

At what Salary?
At 35*l.* a Year.

Where does he reside?
He resides about Six Miles from me.

How far has he to travel to Parts of the District?
The nearest Parish to him is about Four Miles, and the farthest Distance he has to go about Eleven Miles from his House.

If it did not answer to you, living within the District, and having only Four Miles to travel to the Extent of it, how can it possibly answer to Mr. Young?
It would answer better to him, because few People who were not very ill would go to his House. They would prefer buying the Medicine, and taking their Chance without. It is an aguish District; and there is a Shop in the Neighbourhood where they can buy Ague Powders; and they prefer doing this to going to the Doctor. They can get enough Ague Powders for 1*s.*; and if they had to go to the Doctor it would take Half a Day's Work.

You think it would answer better to a Medical Man living further off than to you who live in the Neighbourhood?
That is always the Case.

There would be less Medical Relief, then, given to the Poor?
Yes. I imagine it will be found that Mr. Young has not attended so many Cases in the Twelvemonth he has had it.

Did you speak to your own Knowledge of there having been so much Sickness as during your Year?
I should think much about the same.

You have other Patients?
Yes.

Mr. J. Addison.

Can you speak to the general Health of the District?
Yes; I think it was about the same.

Was not there the Influenza in the Year you attended?
Yes; in one Quarter of the Year there were more Cases in consequence; but that was One Quarter only; I think the Quarter from December to the 25th of March.

That is the Reason you suppose Mr. Young may make it answer when you cannot?
Yes; they would come to me for more trifling Cases, I believe, for almost every Thing, because I live in the Neighbourhood.

Is Mr. Young a young Man?
Yes.

Just come into Practice?
Yes.

How long have you been in Practice?
About Seven Years.

Were you induced to take this as an Introduction in the Profession?
I had some of the Parishes under the old Law, but there was One more joined, and I thought I would take it for One Year. I believe the Chairman of the Board of Guardians made use of the Expression that it was a Year of Probation, and we should see afterwards how we got on.

At the End of the Year of Probation did he consult you as to your Expense, and how far the Salary was sufficient?
We understood they were going to give the same Salaries; but we wrote a Letter to the Board stating that we could not do it for the Salaries we had received.

That was after the Advertisement, was not it?
I think it was. They asked us, I believe, first of all, about the Alteration of the Districts, and then they altered the Districts, and then wrote their Terms against each District; and we considered they were not sufficient.

They did not consult you about the Terms?
No; they asked us about the Alterations; what we thought would be convenient.

They did not ask you about the Salary, or give you an Opportunity of stating what you felt upon that Subject?
No, not till we wrote.

Did you attend afterwards a Meeting of professional Men residing in the Town and Neighbourhood?
Yes, I did.

Was that held before or after the Elections had taken place?
I think it was held before the Elections took place.

At the Time you refused to take the District at that Price was there any Association then formed of the Medical Profession in Bridgwater and the Neighbourhood?
At the Time I wrote the First Letter, stating our Opinion that our Salaries were not enough, there was not then an Association formed.

The Association was formed after you wrote that Letter?
Yes.

Did you ever make an Offer of taking them by the Head?
I believe I did.

At how much per Head?
At $3\frac{3}{4}d.$

What Salary would that have given you?
That would have brought it to 40*l.* a Year.

Did

Mr. J. Addison.

Did you continue to attend the Poor upon the Terms of being paid as for other Patients?
I did.

Had you a Bill then brought in to the Guardians?
I had.

You had previously offered to attend the Poor gratuitously, had not you?
I had.

Was that Bill paid to you?
It was.

Before the Trials took place, or afterwards?
Before.

What was that?
1*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*; it was not quite a Week I attended.

What District did you attend for that?
Middlezoy District.

Supposing you had taken that District at 40*l.* a Year, would you have had any Profit upon it after paying the Expense of the Drugs and your Horse Keep?
Certainly not. I laid down my Horse for the Purpose of trying by Experiment what it cost me for attending; I found I could see my own Patients just as well without a Horse, and consequently my Horse was an Expense, in consequence of which he was put down.

In point of fact, if you had taken it at 40*l.* a Year, would not that have introduced you to other Practice?
No; I might perhaps have had a little extra Practice, and attended a few more which I do not attend now.

What made you fix on $3\frac{3}{4}d.$ a Head as the Tender to be made for that District?
The Reason was, it was less than others; but I considered that perhaps there were not so many Paupers in the District as some of the others; that I had not quite so much Trouble, perhaps, as I lived in a Country District.

Do you know the Number of Cases you attended in the course of the Year?
I should think it averaged Sixty or Seventy Cases in the course of a Quarter of a Year; in the course of the whole Year it would be from 240 to 280?

Did you go several Times to the same Person in more than One Case?
Yes, during One Illness of that Person. A Man may be ill for a Month, or perhaps a whole Year.

That would be only One 4*d.*?
Yes; it would be more.

Supposing the Man was ill for the whole Year, and you continued to attend him; that you would call only One Illness?
It would be Four Cases, for there would be Four different Quarters. We draw a Line across the Quarter, and commence again.

What do you consider to be the Average Expense incurred for Medicines in each Case?
I have calculated my Drugs at about 10*l.* for the Paupers for the whole Year. I did not keep any Account of them.

You speak of the prime Cost?
The Cost I pay at the Druggist's for them.

Then there is your Servant and Horse?
Yes; and I calculate that I cannot keep a Horse and a Servant, and pay the Tax, under 50*l.* a Year.

Mr. J. Addison.

And the Gentleman who has taken it at *85l.* you say lives further off?
Yes; I lived in the Centre of the Parishes, and the furthest I had from me was Four Miles; the nearest he has to him is Four Miles; the furthest Distance he has to go is Eleven Miles.

You say in consequence of his Distance many Persons who sent to you will not send to him?
Yes; they either get something for themselves, or wait till they get so bad they are obliged to send.

Is it not an Object that Medical Men should be as near as possible?
Yes; sometimes they are old People, a Man and his Wife, and have nobody to send for the Medicines.

You would consider it a great Inconvenience for a Medical Man to be at the Distance of Ten Miles?
Yes.

And in case of sudden Attacks of Illness particularly?
Yes; it is necessary to see a Man as soon as possible, in some Cases.

A Man may be dead if there is a Delay of Two Hours?
Yes, it is possible.

Would it not have been an Advantage to have had you rather for the Benefit of the Poor than to have had a Gentleman at such Distance?
It would have been, certainly.

Do you know of any Cases where they have suffered by the Change?
I believe they have done pretty well. I have had Three or Four of them who have come to me to ask me to give them Medicines, and that they would pay me for them; but I have refused, saying they had better at once apply; that they would be obliged to apply at last. I have in some Cases given them a little Ointment, and so forth.

Do the poor Persons send for their Medicines, at whatever Distance they may reside?
Yes.

So that, in the Case of this Gentleman, who has to travel Seven or Eight Miles, they have that Distance to send for their Medicines?
Yes, some of them have; and some more, and some less.

What is the Average?
I should say Six Miles.

How is a single Man to send out for his Medicine?
He must get a Lad or a Neighbour's Child.

And pay for that Assistance?
I cannot say whether he would have to pay for that Assistance.

Is it a healthy District?
No, it is not a healthy District; it is an aguish District. There are Rheumatic Complaints about which require Attention.

It is a damp District?
Yes.

Is Typhus or Diarrhœa prevalent?
No, not much; the Population is not very thick. Sometimes there are Cases of Scarlet Fever raging in the Parishes.

Is there not a great deal of stagnant Water in the Ditches?
There is a great deal of stagnant Water about.

Had the poor Man, under the former Poor Law, to send as far for his Medicines as under the new Law?
I was the Medical Man for Three Parishes before. The other Parish had only to send Four Miles, which was to Bridgwater. The furthest any had to send was Four Miles. The other Three Parishes I was Three Miles and a Half from. I lived between Three of the Parishes; they join together.

Mr. J. Addison.

Did you attend them by Contract under the old Poor Law?
Three of the Parishes.

What was your Salary for those Three?
I think the Salary was 7*l.* 7*s.* and 6*l.* 6*s.* and 5*l.*; 18*l.* for the Three. All our Parishes were let out then; we had what we called suspended Orders, which made a great Difference. It amounted to rather more, very often. I had Bills on some of the Parishes for attending the Paupers; now we attend all the Paupers living in the District, to whatever Parish they belonged.

The suspended Orders were for those belonging to other Parishes?
Yes; they would sometimes ask me to attend a Pauper belonging to another Parish, and pay me for it.

Generally the suspended Orders were looked on as a profitable Source of Income?
Yes; we charged for them as private Patients.

But the Care and Attention was not greater than you bestowed on other Paupers?
No; we pay as much Attention to the poor as to the rich, for our own Credit's Sake.

What were the Parishes you attended under the old Poor Law?
Middlezoy, Othery, and Lyng; Westonzoyland some Bridgwater Surgeon had, being near.

What did he get for that?
I do not know.

What is the Population of Westonzoy?
I should think about 1,000.

You attended Parishes containing 1,560 for 18*l.*?
Yes, about 19*l.*; then I had besides that any suspended Orders. They came to sometimes more sometimes less than the others; sometimes a suspended Order in One Case will amount to 10*l.* alone. It was generally rather more. I considered, taking the Four Parishes with those suspended Orders, they would average Forty Guineas a Year.

You know nothing of the Workhouse?
No.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

G. Warry, Esq.

GEORGE WARRY Esquire is called in, and examined as follows:

YOU are Chairman of the Board of Guardians of the Bridgwater Union?
I was Chairman from the Formation of the Union to the End of the Second Parochial Year, which ended on 25th March last. I am not the Chairman now.

In the course of last Summer, in the Months of June and July, you had some Difficulty about the letting of the Medical Districts; had you not?
Yes.

Will you turn to Page 60 of the Papers shown you; is the Statement of the different Districts correct for the Year beginning June 1836 and ending June 1837?
I think it is; but I have a Copy from the Minute Book. It appears to be correct, except that I see Cannington was 40*l.*

When was that let?
I have the Report of the Committee that was appointed at the Commencement of the Union. That Committee was appointed on the 12th of May, and on the next Board Day after that they made their Report. On reference to the Minute Book, the Sum for Cannington appears to be 40*l.* a Year.

G. Warry, Esq.

Stowey District consisted of Four Parishes?
It did; Nether Stowey, Over Stowey, Asholt, and Fiddington.

When those Districts were let at those Sums, was there any thing said to the Medical Persons that this would be taken as the Letting for the Year, and you would see by the Experience of the Year how far those Salaries were sufficient for the Purpose?
I have no Recollection that that was stated at the Board. I think that such an Expression as that has fallen from me from Time to Time in the course of the Year.

You are not aware of that having been said at the Board at the Time?
No; I cannot charge my Memory with it.

Can you say that it was not used?
I do not know that I can speak positively one Way or another to that.

If it fell from you it would be a private Conversation between you and those Gentlemen, and not as the Organ of the Board?
I think I may positively say that no Authority for that came from the Board; that has been my Feeling.

You never delivered such an Opinion as the Organ of the Board from the Chair?
I have no Recollection of it.

Did you privately?
Yes; I think in communication with Mr. Toogood, who is my Medical Man, I may have said that was my Feeling. We had no Workhouse at that Time.

Did you ever say so to Mr. Abraham King?
I cannot remember having had any Communication with him upon the Subject.

Was whatever you said with a view to the better Adjustment of the Salaries, or the Increase of them?
I should say the better Adjustment with reference to the Paupers which each of the Medical Men was to attend to; for as soon as our Workhouse was built I contemplated that the infirm would be brought into the Workhouse when the Parish Houses were disposed of, as they would be, under the new Law. In case of Casualties there would be no Place into which a Parish Officer could remove them; but such Cases must of Necessity be brought into the Workhouse, and in consequence be taken off the Hands of the Surgeon of the District; which Case actually happened in my own Parish; a Casualty did occur, and the Man was taken to Bridgwater Workhouse. Thereby the Medical Officer's Labours in the District would be diminished.

At the End of the Year you determined to divide the Districts differently?
Yes.

You directed the Medical Officers to attend the Board?
Yes.

When they attended the Board did you consult them as to the Division of the Districts, and also as to the Salaries?
We consulted them as to their Districts, but I think nothing was said as to their Salaries; but previous to that a Circular had been sent to all the Medical Men, I think, with a Fortnight's Notice. I can read the Letter sent by Direction of the Board. On the 5th of May 1837 there was a Letter dated "Bridgwater Union.—Sir, By Direction of the Board I send you, on the other Side, a Copy of the proposed Districts for Medical Relief, together with a Resolution of the Board thereon, to which I beg to call your immediate Attention, and to request that you will be pleased to attend personally before the Board on the 18th Instant at Ten o'Clock in the Forenoon, to give such Information as the Guardians may require." In that Letter was enclosed a Document which had been sent to the Board by a Medical Gentleman of the Town of Bridgwater, Mr. Henry Axford. I have a Copy of that Paper before me.

Is that a new Division?
It is a Suggestion of Mr. Axford, a Surgeon of Bridgwater.

Did you follow those Suggestions?
No.

When they came on the 18th of May, you had not made up your Minds exactly as to the Division of Districts, nor as to the Salaries you meant to give in each Case.
No. The 18th of May was not a Board Day, but a Day set apart for the Consideration of this Subject; it was a Thursday.

Nothing was said by the Medical Officers in respect of the Salaries you proposed to give?
No, not on Money Matters; the Question was put to them, and repeated over and over again, whether or not they had any thing to state which it would be useful for the Board to know previously to coming to the Arrangements for the ensuing Year.

The geographical Arrangements only?
The Arrangements generally. I do not think it was confined to that.

Did not Mr. King begin to state something about the Convenience of the Bridgwater District being the same as that for Registration?
Yes, I think he did. I thought he was about to state something which did not appear relevant, and I stated to him that that Subject we were not about to consider now.

You considered that the Question of Registration should be kept distinct from and subordinate to the Medical Relief?
Quite so.

You put out an Advertisement on the 22d of May?
After the Medical Men left the Board the Guardians took into consideration the Subject, and proceeded to divide the Districts and to fix the Salaries.

You subsequently received a Letter from the Gentlemen who had had the Districts the preceding Year, declining to take the Districts at those Salaries?
Yes.

Upon that what Steps did you take?
That Letter was received at the Board; it is dated, I think, on the 2d of June, and it was received very soon after. That Letter came so much upon us by Surprise that individual Members of the Board certainly expressed some strong Feelings upon it. I should first of all state that on the 18th of May, which was the last of the Days set apart for the Arrangement of the Union into Districts, we came to the Resolutions contained in our Advertisement of the 22d of May. The next Day was a Board Day, the 19th of May; we heard nothing then of any Dissatisfaction on the Part of the Medical Men, or of any Friends of theirs at the Board, with those Arrangements, or the Salaries which the Board had fixed for them. I think on the 24th of May, that was on a Wednesday, I happened to meet an influential Medical Gentlemen of Bridgwater in Company, and a Conversation then passed between us respecting our Arrangements for the ensuing Year; he said nothing to me about the Salary.

Who was that Gentleman?
Mr. Jonathan Toogood. I recollect perfectly well his saying to me, "You are now about to appoint fresh Medical Officers. I would suggest to you the Propriety of having only duly qualified Men; Men who are Members of the College of Surgeons, and also Licentiates of the Apothecaries Company." The Suggestion appeared to me a very reasonable one; and as I was always anxious the Poor should have the very best Advice we could get for them, I assented to the Reasonableness of his Proposition. This was in private, I think on the Wednesday.

Had any of your Doctors been Persons not so qualified?
Yes; as I understood, One of our Medical Officers was not qualified according to that Scale Mr. Toogood then proposed. The Board Day following this

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Conversation, in the course of the Proceedings of the Day, which was the Second Board Day after we made our Arrangements on the 18th of May, a Gentleman, a Member of our Board, got up in the course of the Morning, and submitted to the Board the following Resolution; that is, on Friday the 26th of May. It was moved by the Rev. N. Ruddock, and seconded by R. K. M. King, Esq., "That no Gentleman who is not at present a Medical Officer under this Union be eligible to fill that Situation unless he has passed his Examination at the Apothecaries Hall, and is also a Member of the College of Surgeons;" which Motion, on a Division, was negatived. When this Motion came before the Board it immediately occurred to my Mind that it was exactly that which had been proposed to myself a few Days before. I rather countenanced the Thing, and it so happened that I had conceived the Majority had come to the Resolution; however, a Gentleman sitting at the Bottom of the Table questioned my Decision, and I called for a Show of Hands; and I think in the meantime a Guardian of One of the Parishes was rather anxious about it, and having called the Attention of the other Members of the Board to it, made them more alive to it. In the Result the Motion was rejected by a Majority of One or Two. I would beg to state what would have been the Effect if it had been carried: it would have allowed Mr. Addison to become a Candidate; but it would have prevented Mr. Young, who was a Candidate for the Hill District, from being a Candidate, because he was a Member of the College of Surgeons, but not a Licentiate of the Apothecaries Company. Mr. Addison, on the other hand, I believe, is a Licentiate of the Apothecaries Company, but not a Member of the College of Surgeons. Now, looking at the Instance of Mr. Young; he resides at Ashcott, in the Hill District. We divided No. 3. District into Two, in consequence of a Representation to the Board. On the 21st of April the following Communication was addressed to the Guardians: "Ashcott, 18th April 1837.—Gentlemen, We, the Churchwardens, Overseers, and Inhabitants whose Names are hereunto annexed, beg leave to call your Attention to the great Inconvenience and Hardship imposed on the Poor in consequence of the Medical Officer not residing in the District, but at a Distance exceeding Ten Miles from the extreme and about Three Miles from the nearest Point;" that was Mr. Baruch Toogood. "As there is One if not more Medical Gentlemen residing in and contributing to the Support of the District, of unexceptionable Character and Qualifications, willing to undertake the Office on equal Terms as at present held, we presume to suggest to your Board the Propriety and Justice of appointing One of them at the earliest Opportunity. We are actuated entirely by a Sense of Duty, and from an Understanding that it is the Wish of the Poor Law Commissioners that the Medical Officer should reside within the District. We are your most obedient Servants." Signed by the Parish Officers and Nine Inhabitants of Ashcott; by the Four other Inhabitants of Shapwick; by the Curate and Two principal Farmers of Grenton; by the Overseer of Sutton. Mr. Baruch Toogood, who had the Care of this District, was residing in Bridgwater. In consequence of this Address from those several Parishes, having found this was a most inconvenient Arrangement we had come to the previous Year, from Mr. Toogood being so distant from that Part of the District, and inasmuch as Mr. Young had in the course of the Year come to reside at Ashcott, Attention was immediately called to the Fact, and he was looked on as a Person well qualified to take care of the District.

He would have been excluded if that Measure had been carried?

Yes. I was not in the least aware, at the Time the Motion was made, that he was not a Member of the Apothecaries Company, nor was Mr. Mead King, who seconded the Motion. When we divided that District into Two, I think it was with reference to him; and we had in view the giving Mr. Baruch Toogood the Polden District, nearer his own House, so as to retain him in the Establishment; and thus we should have the Benefit of Mr. Young's Services at Ashcott close to the Spot where he resided, and Mr. Baruch Toogood nearer his District. Mr. Young had had Correspondence with the Poor Law Commissioners upon the Subject, and had previously sent his Letter to the Board on the Subject, stating that he was a proper Person to be appointed. That Motion was negatived; but nothing at that Board was said with regard to the Salaries of the Officers.

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The Board thought it unjust to exclude one Member and to retain another who had not the Qualifications which were thought essential?

I suppose so; but after the Resolution was negatived the Matter dropped, and no Discussion took place upon it. The Gentleman active in defeating this was the Guardian for Ashcott Parish; but I was not at all aware of Mr. Young not being a Member of the College of Surgeons, or I should not have sanctioned it.

You live at Ashcott?
I live at Shapwick.

Does Mr. Young attend your Family?
He does.

The Guardian of the Poor for Ashcott was desirous of securing the Services for the Poor of a Man living in that Neighbourhood?

Yes; and there was a strong Feeling of that Sort expressed at the Commencement of our Union, when we elected Mr. Baruch Toogood, because he was a Candidate for the No. 3. District when the Union was formed.

Mr. Baruch Toogood is the Son of the Gentleman with whom you had Conversation upon this Subject?

Yes. On the 31st of May 1836, when we were electing the Medical Officers, it was moved and seconded, "That Mr. Baruch Toogood be appointed the Medical Officer for District No. 3., with a Salary of 50*l.*" To this Motion an Amendment was moved and seconded, "That Mr. Hugh Williams be appointed Medical Officer for the said District No. 3." Upon a Division Mr. Baruch Toogood was declared duly elected. He was opposed then, but the Qualifications of Mr. Williams, who resides at Ashcott, were not considered as satisfactory, and therefore he was not taken. Mr. Baruch Toogood is well qualified; and as he undertook to establish a Sort of Dispensary in his District, to hire a Lodging, and be there Two Days a Week, he was elected.

Mr. Hugh Williams was considered not as a well-qualified Person?
No; he had no Testimonials.

You have not in all Cases adhered to the Rule of taking a Person living close in preference to a Person living at a Distance; have you? Mr. Addison lived near the District now filled by another Gentleman?
Yes, he did.

Why was he passed over?
He refused to accept the Appointment the Second Year. We should have been very glad if he would have taken the District.

At 35*l.*
Yes.

On the 22d of May 1837 you put out an Advertisement stating the Alteration of Districts and the Alteration of Salaries?
Yes.

Shortly after that, on the 2d of June, you received a Letter from the Medical Gentlemen that had been in charge of the Districts the Year before, declining to take the Districts at the low Salaries?
Yes, we did.

What Steps did you take to fill those Appointments?

This Letter was produced to the Board, and was read immediately after I had taken my Seat at the Board. It came upon me quite by Surprise, as Two Board Days had elapsed since we made the Arrangement, and no Medical Officers had communicated to the Board their Dissatisfaction of the Terms, and no Friend of theirs at the Board had mentioned the Subject of Salaries, and as the Appointment of Medical Officers had been before the Board on the previous Day by the Motion to which I have referred, which had the Appearance, as we thought, of confining the Choice to the Medical Officers of the past Year, inasmuch as it would prevent the Appointment of one who might interfere who might not come within the Definition of "duly qualified;" and we certainly did not wish that any but a qualified Man should

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be chosen. Upon the reading of this Letter a great deal of Conversation passed between different Members of the Board, and each gave their Opinions respecting it: some said it was a Combination, and some Altercation took place between different Members of the Board respecting it. After some Time, I suggested to the Board, that as they had on the 18th of May fixed the Consideration of the Subject for the 16th of June, and for hearing of the Medical Officers, it would be better, perhaps, to let the Matter stand over till the 16th of June, when the Subject would come before the Board, and that we should not then proceed further on the Consideration. The Board adopted that View, and the Matter dropped.

Did you acknowledge the Receipt of that Letter?

No, I think not; but just as the Matter dropped I rose from my Seat and said, "Now, Gentlemen, there is One Request I have to make: some angry Words and some Expressions have been made use of, which it would be well should not be known beyond this Board Room; and I have therefore to request, in order to prevent any Collision or Ill-will among ourselves and the Medical Officers, that not a Word of this may transpire beyond this Room." Up rose a Guardian, and protested against any such Doctrine from the Chair. He said that he was the Representative there of a Population of between 8,000 and 9,000, and he claimed for himself the Right of making known every thing that transpired, and he should exercise that Right.

Who was that Gentleman?

Mr. Bowen.

What Parish did he represent?

Bridgwater.

Was any thing more done on that Day?

No, nothing more that Day; no further Notice was taken. It was understood that the Consideration of this Letter of the Medical Officers would come on on the 16th.

It was dated on the 7th?

It was dated on the 2d.

Did not you think that some Acknowledgment of that Letter should be made in the meantime, stating that the Board meant that it should be taken into consideration on the 16th?

It was perhaps more an Oversight than any thing else; our Business at the Board has occupied a great deal of Time. As soon as this Matter dropped we proceeded to other Business.

There was a good deal of Altercation?

Yes. The Letter did not appear to call for an Answer; it might have been respectful to have acknowledged it, and if that had occurred to us the Clerk would have been directed to acknowledge it.

Was any thing done the next Board Day; was it directed to be acknowledged?

Yes. It came backed with the Signatures of all the Medical Men of the District; it appeared to carry the Import of a Threat; the Board was rather displeased with it.

The Object of the Letter was merely to state that they could not perform those Duties at those Salaries?

It was.

It was more displeasing to the Board on account of its being in Reality a Surprise to them?

It was.

In none of the Conversations you had had, had any Opinion been expressed by the Medical Men to you that the Salaries were inadequate?

No.

Had you never any Conversation with any Medical Persons during the Year, who complained that their Salaries were inadequate?

I think I might. I think, generally speaking, no Medical Men are satisfied with the Salaries they receive.

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Was it your Impression that they all considered themselves under-paid?
They might have stated that to me; and my Impression is that a Communication of that Sort had passed.

Then why should it come so much by Surprise upon you when your Proposal was a Reduction of Salaries?
No; it was rather an Increase the Second Year by 12*l.*

In some Cases there was a Decrease, was there not?
There was some slight Alteration.

Why should it take you by Surprise, if you understood they were dissatisfied with their Salaries in the meantime?
Because Two Board Days had passed, and they had expressed no Feeling that they were not properly paid. On Mr. Ruddock's Motion that would have been the Time to have mentioned something as to the Salaries fixed on the previous Thursday.

Were any of those Medical Gentlemen present when you expected something should be said?
No, certainly not.

Had the Guardians, during the First Year of Office, expressed the Idea that the Medical Men were under-paid, or was it made the Subject of Conversation at the Board?
I cannot charge my Recollection with any thing of the Kind having passed at the Board.

You sent no Answer after the First Board Day; did you send an Answer the next Board Day?
Yes. Another Letter was received, dated the 6th of June, and addressed to the Chairman, which was printed and circulated in the Neighbourhood about Two Days before the next Board Day; and about Two Days before I got the Original, it was sent round to the Guardians. It was printed Two Days before it was brought to me; I did not receive it till the 9th.

Have you got a Copy of it?
I have.

They did not send you a printed Copy?
No; I was in Bridgwater on the Market Day, the Thursday, and heard from the Clerk that a Letter was in circulation in Print, and a Guardian told me he had received it the Night before by Post. The Guardian of my own Parish had received this Letter on the Wednesday before the Board Day, but I was not acquainted with its Contents till the Board Day.

Is it to that printed Letter you sent a courteous Reply on the next Board Day?
It is. The Letter we sent on the 9th was an Answer to both Letters; I think it was an apologetic Letter, stating that we did not mean any Disrespect by not answering their first.

Did you after that receive any Tenders from any Medical Officers to take the Districts?
The 16th of June came, the Day we had fixed on the 18th of May for the Election; that Day having arrived the Business of the Day came on in course. I think that the Communications were then read to the Board, the various Letters; and also the Letter of Ashcott Parish was read; their Remonstrance complaining of the Distance of Mr. Baruch Toogood from that Parish.

Had you received any Offers from those Gentlemen of taking the Districts at so much a Head?
Not before the 16th of June, I think; but on the 16th of June there was some Offer made.

What Offers were made then?
The Offer on the 16th of June was this: "Sir,—The undersigned Medical Gentlemen beg respectfully to inform the Board of Guardians, that they are willing to undertake the Care of the Poor on fair and equitable Terms, although

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they cannot accept the Offer contained in the Circular Letter addressed to them. They beg to direct the Attention of the Board to the Fact, that the Average Payment on the Population in the Bridgwater Union is considerably lower than in others." That is signed by all the Medical Officers.

Was there no Offer of taking Nos. 26. 27. and 28. at 4*d.* a Head?
No.

That is stated to be on the 16th of June?
No; that is a Mistake of the Pamphlet; that was on the 23d or 24th of June.

Have you that Offer here?
I have the separate Offers of the Medical Men; they made separate Offers.

Was that before the Election?
We had no Election on the 23d of June; we filled up Two of the Offices on the 16th, and advertised again for Medical Officers to appear at the next Board Day, which was the 23d; this was dated the 22d.

Which Two were filled up on the 16th?
The Polden and the Hill District.

It was then moved and carried, that the Appointment of the remaining Medical Officers be postponed till this Day Week; and the Clerk was directed to advertise by Handbills?
Yes. Mr. Young was elected on the 16th; after he had left the Room he came back to complain of Ill-treatment he had received from the Medical Men for accepting the Appointment which he had done; that appears upon the Minutes. "It being made known that Mr. Robert Young was desirous of being again admitted to the Board, he was called in, and stated, that in consequence of a Meeting that had been held by the professional Gentlemen in Bridgwater, at which they had passed a Resolution, that any Medical Men accepting Office under the existing Salaries should be considered as Enemies to the Profession in general, and that such should be treated by their Body as hostile to the Profession, and he having accepted the Office of Medical Officer to the Hill District, he had been treated in a most ungentlemanly and insulting Manner by several of the Medical Officers, and told by the Party that whatever his Difficulties might be they would render him no Assistance. He wished to be informed, if he should find it necessary to call in Assistance in the Execution of his Duties, if he might call in any Medical Gentleman he pleased from Taunton or any other neighbouring Town. The Board gave him to understand that they would protect him in the Discharge of his Duties, and that they would sanction his calling to his Assistance any Medical Gentleman he might think proper, should it be deemed necessary."

Did he state to you who the Persons were who had insulted him?
I forget whether he did then; I do not think he did at the Board.

Which was his District?
The Hill District.

What Salary had he?
I think 35*l.*; it was smaller than the Hill District the preceding Year; it had been divided.

Was the Sum of 35*l.* given him?
That was the Salary which was agreed upon on the 18th of May. Previously to the 16th of June the Medical Officers had had a Meeting, and come to the Resolutions which they have printed in their Pamphlet. Mr. Young had been invited to that Meeting, which was held at the Hotel at Bridgwater on the 8th of June, by an anonymous Letter, and so had Mr. Phillips.

A printed Letter?
No, a written Letter.

Did you ever see that Letter?
I have Mr. Young's Letter; he gave it me; this is the Letter.

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The same is read as follows :

"Sir A Meeting of the Medical Profession will be held at the Clarence Hotel, Bridgwater, on Thursday the 8th Instant, at One o'Clock, for the Purpose of taking into consideration the present Position of Medical Men as regards the Poor Law Bill. Bridgwater, 5th June 1837."

I hold in my Hand another Letter, which was handed over to me, addressed to the late Mr. Caswell, inviting him also to the Meeting.

That is not anonymous ?
No, it is not ; it is signed by Mr. Baruch Toogood.

The same is read as follows :

"Bridgwater, 5th June. Sir, A Meeting of the Profession will be held at the Clarence Hotel in this Town at One o'Clock on Thursday next, for the Purpose of taking into consideration the Effect of the Poor Law Act on the Profession. The Favour of your Attendance is requested. I am, Sir, your obedient Servant, BARUCH TOOGOOD."

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned till To-morrow, Twelve o'Clock.

Die Veneris, 15° *Junii* 1838.

The Lord WHARNCLIFFE in the Chair.

Evidence on the Operation of the Poor Law Amendment Act.

Mr. ABRAHAM KING is called in, and further examined as follows: *Mr. Abraham King.*

YOU recollect you were asked Yesterday respecting a Letter which was supposed to be signed by yourself, Mr. Parker, and Mr. Poole, and which was addressed to Mr. Weale; do you recollect any thing about it now?
I think I did send a Letter.

Is that your Signature to the Letter now shown to you?
It is.

Who wrote the Letter?
Mr. Parker.

You stated Yesterday that you were only concerned with Mr. Parker and Mr. Poole with respect to Bridgwater Parish, not other Parishes?
Yes.

It is stated in this Letter, "we at present hold, and have held these Eight or Ten Years past, the Medical Care of Fourteen of the Parishes in this Neighbourhood, comprising that of Bridgwater"?
Mr. Parker held some, and Mr. Poole held others, and I held, as I stated Yesterday, the Bawdrip and Bridgwater; we did not divide the Profits of that Union; Mr. Parker held some of the Parishes himself, and Mr. Poole had others, and I held in connexion with them the Bridgwater Parish.

How old are you?
I am in my 28th Year.

Did that relate to you, that you had held those Parishes Eight or Ten Years?
No; that referred to Mr. Parker and Mr. Poole.

The Letter is put in.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

GEORGE WARRY Esquire is called in, and further examined as follows: *G. Warry, Esq.*

WHEN you first made your Arrangements, in the Year 1836, did you receive any Suggestions from the Assistant Poor Law Commissioner with respect to the Mode of filling up the Medical Districts, and the Manner in which they were to be paid, and so forth?
At the Board on the 12th of May 1836 the Propriety of dividing the Union into Medical Districts was referred to a Committee, but previously to that Mr. Weale suggested the Mode by which the Salaries were to be ascertained, and he mentioned so much a Head as the Mode by which the Payments should be ascertained; that Suggestion of Mr. Weale's was kept in view by the Committee to whom the Division was referred, and was the Scale which they adopted when they recommended to the Board the Division of the Union into the Seven Districts, which the Board afterwards adopted.

In making the Medical Arrangements, in the first instance, did the Board rely on their own Knowledge of what would be a proper Remuneration for the Medical Officers, or did they take into consideration Mr. Weale's Suggestions on the Subject?
I think the Suggestion from Mr. Weale as to so much per Head upon the

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Population guided the Committee generally in the Arrangement of the Districts, taking into consideration the Districts according to the State of the Population; where it was more dense the Committee abated somewhat, and where it was more scattered there so much per Head was rather increased, and so the Committee reported.

Were there Tenders made?
No.

Was there any particular Sum specified?
I do not know that I can say positively the Sum, but I think about 3*d.* a Head. I think his Proposition was suggested by a Letter from some Medical Man, but the Committee bore that in mind when they arranged the Districts. Mr. Weale can speak upon that Subject with much more Accuracy than I can. In speaking Yesterday of Mr. Axford's Letter, suggesting the Division of the Union into Districts, the Board of Guardians directed the Clerk to send a Copy of that Scheme to each of our Medical Officers; that was sent in a Letter dated 5th May 1837; in that Scheme the Subject of Remuneration is taken up.

Who was Mr. Axford?
He was a Surgeon in the Town, and one of the Authors of the Medical Pamphlet.

Can you produce the Letter from Mr. Axford?
I have a Copy before me.

Have the goodness to read it?
It was sent to the Board on the 5th of May, a Day on which I was not present; it was produced by one of the Guardians, in the Handwriting of Mr. Axford; he says, "Only one District to be taken by a Surgeon unless he has a Partner. A Consultation of any Two or more Surgeons of the Union may be ordered by the Board of Guardians, or, in case of Emergency, by the Guardian or Guardians of the Parish in which the sick Pauper resides. The consulting Surgeon or Surgeons to receive 10*s.* 6*d.* if the Case be Midwifery, if otherwise 1*s.* per Mile. Children to be vaccinated every Year. The Surgeons to be exhorted to assemble and make annually a Report, with such Remarks as may be considered useful to the Guardians. 1. Workhouse. 2. Bridgwater. 3. Cannington, Wembdon, Charlinch. 4. Otterhampton, Stockland, Fiddington, Beer. 5. Stowey, Over Stowey, Aisholt. 6. Enmore, Goathurst, Durleigh, Spaxton, and Chilton. 7. North Petherton, Broomfield, Michael Church, Thurloxton. 8. Lyng, Othery, Middlezoy, Weston. 9. Chedzoy, Bawdrip, Woollavington, and Puriton. 10. Stawell, Sutton, Moorlinch, Greinton, Ashcott. 11. Shapwick, Catcott, Edington, Chilton, Cossington. 12. Pawlett, Huntspill." A Copy of this was sent by Direction of the Board to each of our Medical Officers by the Clerk. The Medical Officers, on the Receipt of that Letter, wrote the following Letter to the Board; 12th May 1837, signed Abraham King, addressed to the Board:—"Gentlemen, In answering your Communication, dated the 6th of May, we beg to state, that the Time has been so short that no proper or useful Division of the Districts has been formed by us, and we think it very desirable that both the Convenience of the Poor and the Surgeons of the District should be consulted previous to any further Arrangement. We remain, Gentlemen, your obedient Servants, John Evered Poole, Abraham King." The next Letter is signed William Lakin Caswell, in these Words:—"Sir, In answer to the Letter I received from you the other Day, I beg to state, that there cannot be Four more convenient Parishes in the Union to go together than Huntspill, Pawlett, Puriton, and Woollavington; but if I were asked the Question, I would rather my District stood as it now does. It works quietly and well; I have heard no Complaints of any Sort; and, so far from it being too much, I can do as much again, and should be very happy with the Chance, provided I was only remunerated accordingly. The Board will, no Doubt, see the Propriety of making some Alterations with respect to the Second Poor; but we shall receive the Suggestions of the Board in proper Time. I am, Sir, your obedient Servant, William Lakin Caswell."

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What does he mean by the Second Poor?

Mr. Caswell had written a Letter, stating that he had a great many Second Poor on his List; not Paupers, and not entitled to Medical Relief.

He thought you had been too profuse in giving Relief?

He did not think the Board had, but that some Persons who were not entitled to be relieved as Paupers had got upon his List. Then there is a Postscript, "I do not feel competent to give an Opinion about any other District. I will attend, as requested, on the 18th." The next Letter is one signed by Horatio Nelson Tilsley, in these Words:—"Gentlemen, In answer to the Proposition for the further Division of the Districts for Medical Relief in the Bridgwater Union, I take it for granted that the Board has Two Objects in view; 1st. the giving prompt Attendance on the sick Poor; and 2dly, making a permanent Arrangement: and, knowing tolerably well the different Localities, I think that the proposed Subdivision of the present Districts is, generally speaking, convenient for Patients and Attendants. Whether there be any separating Numbers 1. and 2. I leave to the Judgment of those who have better Means than I of forming one, suggesting only, that No. 1. cannot be received as an Hospital where all are sick, but only as a Refuge for the old and young, where occasionally very few will require Attendance. With respect to the North Petherton District, I think Enmore may be withdrawn with Convenience to both Parties; but it is to Broomfield that the greatest Objection lies, in consequence of the Extent of the Parish of North Petherton in the opposite Direction; but since I cannot with reason suggest to what District it should be thrown where the same Objection will not apply, it becomes of course invalid. As regards Goathurst, I think it may be retained with Convenience to both Parties, since the Communication between it and Petherton is intimate and constant, and the Distance short, and, supposing the Surgeon of the District always to reside at Petherton, he will find it convenient, through the Winter Months at least, to pass through Goathurst on his Way to Broomfield. As to the other Districts, it appears to me that they are exceedingly well arranged. In offering these Remarks I have taken advantage of the Solicitation conveyed in the Resolution of the Board, and should be sorry to find I had been obtrusive. I have the Honour to be, Gentlemen, your obedient Servant, Horatio N. Tilsley."

Is the Arrangement to which he refers, that which you have just stated, or the Arrangement stated in Page 61?

I think it referred to the Arrangement Mr. Axford suggested; we had sent them a Copy of those Suggestions; we merely enclosed it, as Mr. Axford's Suggestion, for them to deal with as they thought proper.

Are not those Answers to your Letter enclosing that Suggestion?

Yes.

Do not those Remarks apply to the Alterations suggested by Mr. Axford?

Not being present at the Board at the Time the Letter of the Clerk was sent, I cannot say. The Clerk's Letter is this:—"By Direction of the Board I send you (on the other Side) a Copy of the proposed Districts for Medical Relief, together with a Resolution of the Board thereon, to which I beg to call your immediate Attention, and to request that you will be pleased to attend personally before the Board on Thursday the 18th Instant, at 10 o'Clock in the Forenoon, to give such Information as the Guardians may require. I am, Sir, your obedient Servant, Rob. Underdown, Clerk."

Where does that Resolution of the Board appear?

On the 5th of May.

The Entry is read, and is as follows:

"It was resolved on the Motion of T. W. Inman, Esq., and seconded by Mr. Francis Brice, That a Copy of the same be forwarded to each of the Medical Officers belonging to the Union, with a Request that they will, on or before Thursday next, forward to the Clerk any Remarks thereon that may appear to them to be useful, in order to assist the Board in their Consideration of this Subject."

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You had not sent any other Scheme?
No.

After you received that Letter, and before the 18th of May, you had arranged that other Plan which appears in Page 61?
We had arranged nothing before the 18th of May.

You received Answers to those Letters?
Yes.

When did you decide upon the Arrangements which you put into the Advertisement on the 22d of May?
On Thursday the 18th of May, the Day specially appointed for that Purpose.

Why did you upon that Occasion fix upon that Arrangement in preference to Mr. Axford's?
Mr. Axford's was impracticable.

How did it appear to be impracticable?
There was such a Multitude of Districts, it would have been hardly worth while for a Medical Man to have taken Two or Three Villages.

The Medical Men were present previous to your making the Arrangement on the 18th?
Yes.

Of what Nature were your Inquiries of them at that Time?
The Questions put to them were general Questions; it was stated to them that the Board were about to make Alterations in their several Districts, and they were requested to offer any Suggestions or any Observations that they thought useful in assisting the Board to come to a more convenient Arrangement of the Districts.

Alterations of what? Was it the Alterations of the Districts which had existed in the preceding Year?
Yes.

Not Mr. Axford's Suggestions?
No. I hardly think Mr. Axford's Suggestions were much thought of; the Arrangement for the Hill District was stated by that Memorial from the Four Parishes to be so very inconvenient, on account of the Distance of the Medical Officer, that the Board had absolutely determined that that could not be continued.

You had contrived to get over that by agreeing with him to take a Lodging at which he should attend on certain Days?
Yes.

But that had not succeeded?
No; the Parishes complained of the Inconveniences which the Poor of those Parishes had suffered.

Will you read the Remainder of the Answers of the Medical Men after they received Mr. Axford's Suggestion?
The next Letter is a Letter signed Richard B. Ruddock:—"Sir, In answer to the Letter from the Board of Guardians dated May 5th, I beg to state, that I consider the proposed Districts too small, and would suggest the following Arrangement for my own immediate Neighbourhood: No. 1. Stowey, Over Stowey, Aisholt, Spaxton, Charlinch, Fiddington, Otterhampton, and Stockland. No. 2. Cannington, Edstock and Beer, Chilton, Wembdon, Durleigh, Goathurst, and Enmore. No. 1. Stowey, Over Stowey, Aisholt, Fiddington, Stockland, Otterhampton, Cannington, and Edstock and Beer. No. 2. Spaxton, Charlinch, Chilton, Wembdon, Goathurst, Durleigh, and Enmore. The above Arrangement is made on the Supposition that the Parish of Bridgwater will be a District of itself, or united to the Workhouse, and that the Petherton District is too large. Of the Two, I consider the first by far the best. As the Relieving Officer for the whole of the Parishes in No. 1. resides at Stowey, which in any urgent Cases may be of great Importance to the Poor, Charlinch,

 I think,

I think, may go either with Cannington or Spaxton, in the first Arrangement, although the Centre of the Parish may be nearer Bridgwater; some of the Houses are situated near Padnoller, within a Mile and a Half of Stowey. It was suggested, that, supposing the first Arrangement was made, Cumbwitch should go with Stockland and Otterhampton, although some of it may be in Cannington Parish. I would propose that Stockland go with Otterhampton, being a small Parish at the Extremity of the Union. It may be considered convenient for the Parish of Cannington to be attended by the same Medical Man as Otterhampton, on account of the Two Parishes being so intermixed at Cumbwitch, this would not be convenient for One Reason, the Relieving Officer residing at Stowey, supposing them to be attended by a Medical Man of Bridgwater." Mr. Baruch Toogood sent no Answer to the Letter, nor did Mr. Addison. I would beg to mention a Letter Mr. Abraham King sent to the Board on the 12th of July 1836, speaking of Remuneration: "Gentlemen, Hearing that you were about to consider this Day the proposed Plans for a Workhouse, I take the Liberty of suggesting that were you to include in your Contract that a Warm Bath should be erected, the extra Expense would be little in comparison to the Advantages derived from it, both for Medical Purposes and others. Also allow me to ask what Remuneration am I to have for Attendance on the Inmates of the present Workhouse. An Answer to which would greatly oblige, Gentlemen, your obedient Servant, Abraham King."

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Was any thing done in respect of Remuneration?

Nothing was done; the Letter was referred to the Visiting Committee.

Did he receive any additional Remuneration for those Patients?

He did afterwards. The next Letter in the same Year, respecting Remuneration and Increase of Salary, was one from Mr. Tilsley, dated the 17th March 1837:—"Gentlemen, I trust I shall be excused the Liberty I take in stating that there has been no Remuneration awarded to me for my Services at the Workhouse here;" that is North Petherton; "at least I am right in saying, that, at the Time I entered into the Contract in June last, it was not in contemplation to make this a Branch of the Bridgwater Establishment. If I am wrong your Justice will set me right. In thus appealing to you I am satisfied you will be convinced that I do it on account of actual Services performed; but, if it were necessary, I could exhibit to you such a Catalogue of Diseases, epidemic, common, and peculiar, as I fancy fully justifies me in the Request. At the same Time I beg to observe, that if there be any Demur at making some Addition to my Salary for this particular Service," which Words are underscored, "or any Doubt as to the Justice or Propriety of this Application, I shall feel myself deeply indebted by your forgetting that it was ever made."

Both that Application and that of Mr. King were to be remunerated for Services beyond what they considered to be within their Contract?

Yes. At the Close of the Board in 1836, in the few Observations I addressed to the Board at the End of the Year, those Letters were brought before the Board, and the Board granted those Gentlemen an Addition to their Salary, and gave all the Medical Officers a Gratuity in consequence of the Influenza.

To what Extent was that Gratuity?

They voted 15*l.* to Mr. King, 15*l.* to Mr. Tilsley, 5*l.* to Mr. Toogood, 5*l.* to Mr. Caswell, 3*l.* 10*s.* to Mr. Addison, 2*l.* 10*s.* to Mr. Ruddock, and 4*l.* to Mr. Poole, being 20 per Cent. on the Quarter's Salary, in consequence of the Influenza which had prevailed from the Christmas to the Lady Day, when the first Year's Guardians went out of Office. It was quite unsolicited by the Medical Men, except Mr. Tilsley and Mr. King; the other Medical Gentlemen had asked for no Gratuity: Mr. King's and Mr. Tilsley's were not 20 per Cent., but they were Sums voted in consequence of the additional Trouble they had had.

When you fixed upon the Divisions which were advertised upon the 22d of May 1837, you took all those Circumstances into your Consideration, and also Mr. Axford's Suggestions?

The Papers were all read over that Day, and every thing which had been laid before the Board was stated. We were anxious for every Information we could possibly get. I beg to state, the Advantage we had in dividing the Hill District into Two, was, that they were able to have Mr. Young, a Member of the College

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of Surgeons, and resident at Ashcott, immediately in the Neighbourhood. A Part of that District and a Part of Huntspill District was made an intermediate District, which we were in hopes Mr. Baruch Toogood would have taken, and which would have been more convenient to him as resident in Bridgwater. If we had adopted the Arrangement which was proposed, as I stated Yesterday, we could not have got any Surgeon to attend the Hill District, except from Bridgwater, because there was no resident Surgeon in the Neighbourhood who would be considered fully qualified.

The first public Notice of your Intention to elect Medical Officers was by an Advertisement on the 22d of May?
Yes.

You did not give any private Notification to the several Medical Officers before that, did you?
I have no Doubt on earth that the Medical Men were acquainted with the Arrangements we had made immediately upon their being made.

Upon the 2d of June you received a Letter, which is already on the Minutes, from the Medical Officers?
Yes.

That caused a general Discussion at the Board?
It did.

What was the Point of the Discussion with respect to that Letter; why was it that you considered it improper in them to write such a Letter?
Because up to that Time no Communication had been made to the Board that they were dissatisfied with their Appointment or with the proposed Salaries, and, as I stated Yesterday, I had a Communication with Mr. Toogood, the principal Medical Person of the District; we talked about this Arrangement, but he said nothing to me about the Salaries which had been fixed; this was on the 24th, and our Advertisement bears Date the 22d. I am positive he said nothing about the Remuneration.

The Advertisement was the 22d of May, and this Letter was written on the 2d of June?
Yes.

What was there which produced that Anger at the Board which appears to have been felt?
On the 26th of May a specific Motion was brought forward by Mr. Ruddock, the Father of one of the Medical Officers, on the Subject, and our Medical Arrangement was then before the Board, which would have been to exclude any Person from the Appointment which we had already made unless he was a Member of the College of Surgeons and a Licentiate of the Apothecaries Company. Having Nine Appointments to make, this Resolution would have gone to the Effect that neither of them was to be given except to a Gentleman qualified according to that Resolution. That Motion failing, nothing further was said by any Gentleman at the Board, a Friend of the Medical Officers, as to the Salaries. Then the next Board Day, which was the Week after, after I had taken my Seat at the Board, (not having heard a Syllable of it till I was going up to the Board Room,) this Letter of the Medical Gentlemen was brought forward.

Did the Guardians connect this Measure with the previous Measure; did they suppose it to be a Part of the Scheme on the Part of the Medical Persons?
I do not know what the Feelings of the Guardians generally were; some stated that it was a Combination and a Conspiracy. It had been talked of in the Town before the Guardians met in the Morning, for as I went in, One of the Guardians came to me, and said, "Here is a Strike among the Doctors, you will hear of it presently."

What was there in that particular Letter which excited the Feelings of the Guardians to the Degree you have stated?
It came by Surprise on the Board, and it was signed by all the other Medical Men in the District.

You mean to say there was a Sort of Approval of it signed by the others?
Yes.

How was it conveyed to the Board?
I do not know, on Inquiry, how it was conveyed; I think nobody seemed to know, but that it was given to some Pauper that brought it in.

Did it come in dirty?
Yes, and the Wafer was wet; it appeared to have been brought in in haste.

Had you had any Conversation during the preceding Year at any Time with any of those Medical Persons, and had they complained to you that their Remuneration was insufficient?
I think in my Communication with Mr. Toogood, who is my Medical Man——

Which Mr. Toogood?
They are all in Partnership, Mr. Toogood and his Two Sons. I found, speaking of them all, they were not satisfied with the Remuneration of the Board.

Had you Conversation with Mr. Abraham King?
I cannot speak to any Conversation with Mr. Abraham King, particularly; I am not in the habit of Communication with him.

Mr. Evered Poole?
No, certainly not.

Was there any thing said to any of them as to the Advantage they might have from Medical Clubs?
Yes, certainly; because I had drawn up Rules for Medical Clubs, and the Board had had them printed, and sent them round. We have had Conversation with our Medical Men upon the Subject.

Was it not represented that they might derive Advantage from Medical Clubs?
Yes; it was always my Feeling that they might derive Advantage from Medical Clubs, if we could establish them.

Were not you personally aware that the Medical Persons were dissatisfied with the Salaries they had received?
I should say, yes; but I should say that that Dissatisfaction was expressed shortly after that Appointment; but I think I heard of no Dissatisfaction with their Appointment for a long Time before the Time referred to.

If they had contracted to serve the Year out, and if they had made Complaint to you, it was of no use repeating it till the Year was out?
No; but Mr. Abraham King and Mr. Toogood had both expressed their Wish to continue their Appointments.

Do you mean to continue their Appointment on the Terms they then had?
They expressed it in a Letter; I have seen the Letter Mr. Abraham King wrote to Mr. Young, and which Mr. Young showed me; he stated that he had no Intention of giving up his Appointment; and Mr. Toogood, on being applied to to know whether he intended to give up his Appointment, said he had no Intention of giving up his Appointment.

What was the Date of those Letters?
In February 1837.

Those Letters expressed nothing one way or another with respect to Salary?
No; only that they wished to retain their Appointments.

Why, under those Circumstances, were the Board so angry with those Persons for expressing their Dissatisfaction with the Salaries the Board had fixed?
The Board of Guardians had not been led to suppose that those Salaries were unsatisfactory.

Whether they had been led to suppose so or not, why were they to be so dissatisfied because those Gentlemen said the Salaries you had fixed were too low?
That Letter appeared to the Board of Guardians to be something more than the

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the Statement of their Dissatisfaction; there appeared also to be a Kind of Threat held out, a compulsory Address to the Board.

What Part of it was supposed to be compulsory?
Inasmuch as it was signed by all the Medical Men in the District, and from the Fact of the Medical Men joining together.

It was natural for the Guardians to resent the Idea of Combination?
Yes.

Supposing, instead of that Anger operating to prevent an Answer being given, an Answer had been given, requesting those Gentlemen to attend the Board, and some personal Communication had been had with them, do not you think it might have been settled without coming to a downright Quarrel?
I do not think it could.

Why not?
I think there was a Spirit of Opposition in the Proceedings, which would have prevented that. I was particularly anxious that that which had passed at the Board should not go beyond it, to prevent a Collision or unpleasant Differences between the Board and the Medical Officers.

Did any Person at the Board request that an Answer might be sent to those Gentlemen, requesting them to have Communication with the Board, or any Committee of the Board?
No.

Why was not that Course adopted by the Board?
Two or Three Courses were proposed at the Board, and I at last suggested that I thought, as we had had a Meeting on the 18th of May for the very Purpose of taking all these Arrangements into consideration, and as we had fixed on the 16th of June as the Day on which we were to elect our Medical Officers, this Letter of the Medical Officers should be taken into consideration when we came to the Election. No Acknowledgment was sent to that Letter, certainly, but it was not through any Want of Courtesy to the Medical Gentlemen; it was an Accident more than any thing else.

Was not it likely that a personal Interview would lead to Collision and to angry Feelings on both Sides?
I think it would.

And thereby materially operate to prevent any amicable Arrangement between the Guardians and the Medical Men?
I do not think that any Advantage would have resulted from any Conference with them. Having taken a great deal of Trouble, and having met on a specific Day for that Purpose, and invited the Medical Men to state every thing they had to say respecting the Appointments of the previous Year, the Board was vexed, that, having decided on the 18th of May on the Arrangement for the ensuing Year, they should, after Two Board Days had elapsed, turn round and say we do not approve of it.

You had not stated to them their Salaries on the 18th of May?
No; but they were communicated to them on the 22d. I had put the Question as a general one; I was in hopes they would have stated any Complaint they had to make in regard to the Arrangements.

Was not it possible that, there being no Conversation respecting the Salaries, they might have misunderstood that Matter, and that they might have thought that it was not submitted to them?
They might have thought that. The Wish of the Board was to ascertain from them every Objection they had.

Having put it thus, on the 2d of June they write this Letter to you, stating that they could not undertake it on those Salaries?
Yes, on the 2d of June.

The Feeling excited in the Board was in consequence of the whole of them signing it?
Yes.

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Why should they not all sign it?

We were in communication with our Medical Officers, and if they had any Communication or Complaint to make, if it had come to the Board signed by them only, there would not have been any Objection to it; but it was signed also by all the other Medical Men in the Union, which gave the Board to understand that as our Medical Officers were dissatisfied we could not get any other Medical Men in the District to take the Divisions at the Salaries we had fixed.

Then it was not only their signing the Letter, but there being an Approval of it by the other Medical Men residing in the District?

Yes.

Which was it? Was it the Fact of all the Medical Officers who had been employed signing the Letter, or there being an Approval of it by the other Medical Men?

The Fact of their signing, and all the other Medical Men joining together.

Was not it thus; that the Circumstance of complaining, the Mode in which it was brought forward, and the other Medical Men signing it; the Combination of all those Circumstances irritated the Board?

Yes.

During the previous Year had your Medical Officers attended the Board?

Frequently.

You had friendly and amicable Communication with them?

Yes; we were always on friendly Terms with them.

If any of those Gentlemen had offered any Objections or made any Statement on the Subject of their Salaries on the 18th of May should you have stopped them?

Certainly not.

Were you in expectation that they would say any thing upon the Subject?

Fully; we should have been very glad for them to state it; but I could not put a leading Question, "Are you satisfied with your Salaries?"

Would it not have been better if you had fixed the Salaries to have stated them, and asked them whether they considered them sufficient?

I do not recollect that that was done.

Were the Salaries fixed when they were attending the Board?

No; not till afterwards.

If you were satisfied with the Conduct of your Medical Officers, would it not have been better to have stated the Terms to them before they were put into the public Advertisement?

We supposed that the Advertisement amounted to that.

Would it not have been more likely to have succeeded if you had done it privately in the first instance?

Probably it might.

Was it very unnatural that those Persons should, when they found those Salaries were fixed and they thought them inadequate, you not having communicated with them, have written such a Letter as that which they did write?

It was never alleged to the Board that that was the Ground of their Objection.

Does not the Letter itself state that "they cannot, with Justice to the Poor, the Guardians, and themselves, continue the Charge at the Salaries proposed"?

I understood the Question to be, whether it was not natural that they should write that Letter in consequence of the Terms not being previously communicated to them; we were not aware that they had taken Offence in consequence of their not being acquainted with the Terms before they were printed in the Advertisement.

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The Board, it appears, took Offence at the Medical Men writing this Letter?
The Board, as a Body, did nothing in it.

But there was a strong Feeling in the Board?
On the Part of some of the Board.

Was not it natural under those Circumstances, and what was there extraordinary, you not having communicated to them any thing with respect to the Salaries but by public Advertisement, in their taking the Mode of a signed Letter to you?
Nothing but the Circumstances of their all uniting together and getting all the other Medical Men of the District to sanction them, and their not having communicated in any Way their Disapproval of the Sums we had fixed on in any Communication previously.

They state in this Letter to you that the Ground on which they do not think the Salary sufficient is "from their Experience during the past Year of the Extent of the Duties to be performed, the necessary Expenses of Medicines, &c., they cannot, with Justice to the Poor, the Guardians, and themselves, continue their Charge at the Salaries proposed; at the same time they are willing to resume their Duties on Terms consonant to the Feelings of Men of a liberal Education." What is there improper in that Language, that should have induced you to break off that friendly Communication of which you have spoken?
Nothing more than I have stated.

Would it not have been as well to have inquired into their Experience, and into the actual Expense of Medicines, and so on?
The Board of Guardians came to no Resolution on the 2d of June; the Matter was quite open.

Was there a full Board?
Yes, and a great deal of Conversation; a great deal of Time was taken up on this Matter. As soon as it dropped we proceeded to the Business of the Day. Our Meetings had been prolonged to a very late Hour. It was an Omission, certainly, not intimating to the Medical Men the Receipt of the Letter: that is all we could have done.

Why did not the Board inquire into the Experience they had had, and how far it was true that they had not been sufficiently remunerated the Year before?
The Board were in hopes the previous Communication with them would have had that Effect.

As it had not had that Effect, why did they not consent to enter into the Subject, and inquire into the Truth of what they stated to the Board—that they could not continue, that the necessary Expenses were such that they could not continue it?
If my Recommendation to the Board had been adopted we should have had an Opportunity on the 16th of June to hear all which the Medical Men had to allege, and that was my Object in requesting the Matter might stand over till the 16th of June.

Supposing you had answered their Letter, and said so, would not that have prevented angry Feeling?
That was an Omission, certainly, but it was an accidental Circumstance.

If you really intended to have this Communication on the 16th of June, can you be surprised that those Medical Men should be irritated as well as the Board?
After what has occurred I regret their not having received an Answer to their Letter, but even the Omission of the Acknowledgment of the Receipt of their Letter was not such a Breach of Decorum as to have called for the second Letter.

Whether their Letter of the 6th of June was right or wrong, is there not Reason to suppose that the Omission of the Board to take notice of their first Letter produced it?
I think Men could hardly be so susceptible of a slight Omission of an Act of Courtesy as to write in that Way.

You do not reckon upon having every thing done exactly as you wish as Chairman?
Oh no.

Occasionally you may be in a Minority?
Yes.

There was a great deal of Excitement among the different Parties in the Board?
Yes.

Which you attempted to allay?
Yes, I attempted it by every Means I could; in my Opinion, the Board as a Body offered no Offence whatever to those Medical Men.

Was it not a Matter of Notoriety at Bridgwater and the Neighbourhood, that there was a Combination among the Medical Men?
It was known before I got into the Town; it was stated to me as I went into the Board Room, and I believe it was talked of on the Market Day before; but I was not in the Town.

Your Market Day being the Thursday, the Day preceding the Board Day?
Yes, on the 1st of June. I beg to state that the Year for our Union ended at Midsummer; all the other surrounding Unions had concluded their Arrangements for the succeeding Year—their Year ending at Lady Day; we adopted the same Scale as they were doing; we had had the Experience of almost all the surrounding Unions, and had heard no Dissatisfaction of the other Medical Men with their Salaries, and there appeared no Reason why the Bridgwater Men should be dissatisfied, while all the Medical Men of the Country round were satisfied and renewed their Contract.

Supposing it should appear that the Salaries were at the Rate of $3\frac{1}{2}d.$ a Head upon the gross Population, are you surprised that the Medical Men of Bridgwater should consider that as inadequate to remunerate them for their Attendance upon the Poor?
$3\frac{1}{2}d.$ I believe was what had been acquiesced in in the previous Year, and it was the Sum acquiesced in by the Medical Officers of all the Unions in the County.

The Letter of the Medical Men on the 2d of June merely states, that they consider those Salaries inadequate, and that they cannot resume their Duties on those Terms. Do you consider that there was any thing disrespectful or uncivil to the Board in the Medical Men making that Statement?
There was nothing disrespectful in that Statement certainly, but the Board thought that as the other Medical Gentlemen in the other Unions had been satisfied with the same Terms, and they had heard of no Objection of the Medical Gentlemen in the other Unions, that the Terms we had given our Medical Men ought to satisfy them.

How do you know that they made no Objections in the other Unions?
We had heard of no Objections.

How do you know that there were no Objections?
Our Clerk has ascertained it from the Clerks of all the Unions. I have the Letters before me where they have made new Contracts, and where they have made no Gratuity, as we did. I find the Bridgwater Board is almost the only Board which gave Gratuities in addition to their Salaries.

All you know of those other Unions is, that they have taken their Districts again on the same Terms as the former Year?
Yes.

You have heard of no Complaints?
No.

Do you consider the second Letter a Combination?
I consider the first as a Combination.

You and the Board understood that if there had been any Alteration in the Salaries, the 16th of June was the Day when that would have been to be discussed?
Exactly.

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Was not it as well to have informed the Medical Men that you so considered?
Yes; and the Board would have been happy to have let them know it, if they had foreseen such a Circumstance.

On the 18th of May the Board came to a Resolution, that they would divide the entire Union in a particular Way, and they published an Advertisement, stating that on the 16th of June they would receive Tenders and make Contracts upon that Subject?
Yes; that they would proceed to the Election of Medical Officers for the Districts agreed on on the 18th of May, put forward on the 22d of May.

On the 2d of June you received a Letter from a Number of Medical Men, stating that they did not think the Salaries sufficient, and did not mean to offer?
Yes.

Did you receive, or had you previous to the Election, any Letters from any other Medical Men relative to the Appointments?
Yes; I think Mr. Young had forwarded his Testimonials to the Board.

Did you answer Mr. Young's Letter?
I cannot undertake to state that; I do not remember; on the 18th of May Mr. Young sent some Testimonials; I think they were read, but I do not know whether any Answer was sent to him acknowledging the Receipt; it was a Correspondence, I think, with the Poor Law Commissioners.

If you had had no Suspicion of Combination among those Medical Gentlemen, and had received the Letter which you did on the 2d of June declining the Competition for the Appointment, should you have thought it necessary to have given any Answer upon the Subject?
I do not think we should have given an Answer to it.

Do you think that the Addition of the Names of all the Medical Men resident in the District gave them an Authority to demand that Attention which any other individual Medical Man would not have obtained from you?
I think not.

If you had received Letters declining the Competition from any other Medical Man should you have answered it?
No. On the first Commencement of the Union Mr. John Toogood was a Candidate; he wrote a Letter to the Board on the Day of Election declining to become a Candidate for the Appointment; certainly no Letter was sent to him acknowledging it.

Had he been an Officer of the Union before?
No; that was on the Commencement of the Union.

He did not feel himself insulted by that Omission?
I never heard that he did; he declined being put into Nomination for the Appointment.

That was a Letter which did not appear to require an Answer?
No, it required no Answer.

Did it require any Answer less than the Letter sent on the 2d of June?
I cannot undertake to speak to the Contents, but he declined becoming a Candidate for the Appointment.

Did he state any particular Reasons for declining?
I think he did not; but the Letter is in the Letter Book.

You knew that it was competent for those Gentlemen to state those Objections on the 16th of June, and to enter into any Arrangement with you at the proper Period?
Certainly.

Other Professional Men then resident in the Town had declined before, and had received no Answer?
Yes, One.

Your

Your abstaining from sending him any Answer did not raise any unpleasant Feeling on his Part? *G. Warry, Esq.*

None whatever.

His Letter was signed by him alone?

Yes.

Was it your Opinion when you received the joint Letter of all the Medical Men in the District, and under a certain Impression that there was Combination, that they had a greater Claim to Courtesy than the Individual to whom you have referred?

I did not entertain an Opinion one way or another; the Subject did not come before me for my Opinion; I did not give it a Thought as to any Answer.

Should you, as Chairman of the Board of Guardians, think it respectful and necessary to answer any Medical Man who should write to you declining or refusing to offer himself at any future Election as a Medical Attendant?

No; I could not undertake to answer all the Letters addressed to the Board; it is not the Province of the Chairman.

With respect to this Letter of the 2d of June, which was considered by the Board as a Combination on the Part of the Medical Officers, supposing the Medical Men wished to throw the Board into Difficulty, would they not have driven them into a greater Difficulty by keeping Silence up to the 16th of June, than by giving the Board Fourteen Days Notice of their Intention not to make any Offer?

I do not know that they would have driven them into a greater Difficulty.

Did they not by writing that Letter give the Board Fourteen Days to look out for other Persons?

The Board took no advantage of those Fourteen Days, for they had determined to take no steps till the 16th of June, when the Day was fixed for the Elections. The Board were then in hopes the Matter might have come before them, and that it would have been amicably discussed then.

Those Gentlemen having decided that the Terms were inadequate, and that they would not tender on them, by that Letter they gave the Board of Guardians Fourteen Days to look out?

If the Board of Guardians had so determined, they might have done that, but One Reason stated at the Board was, that having met on the 18th of May, and formally determined on those Arrangements, it was more consistent with Business that our Arrangements should not be adjusted on the spur of the moment, and that we should let the Matter stand till the 16th, when we could reconsider the whole Subject.

Did they not, in the concluding Sentence of that Letter of the 6th, state, "To prevent the Poor from suffering by the Delay consequent on the Course taken by the Board of Guardians, the Medical Officers are ready to continue their Professional Attendance on the Poor gratuitously until some other Arrangement can be made, provided such Arrangement be effected within a reasonable Period"?

They did.

Do you consider that a Letter of Persons desirous of throwing the Board of Guardians into a Difficulty?

If that Sentence had stood alone it would not have had the Effect.

Did not those Gentlemen give the Board of Guardians Reason to expect that they would prevent their feeling Inconvenience, that Letter containing an Offer to continue their Services, gratuitously until the Board of Guardians could make some other Arrangement?

Their Letter of the 6th of June was the only Letter which states that they would not tender, if it amounted to that.

You state that you consider it was Combination?

It was so considered by the Members of the Board.

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Not a Combination to throw the Board into Trouble, but a Combination to raise their Salaries?
Yes.

Had they not determined not to raise their Salaries?
No; the Question was open.

Had you not on the 22d of May issued an Advertisement that the Districts were to be taken at certain Salaries?
Yes, we had proposed those Salaries; we should have agreed to the Salaries when we elected them.

Does the Circumstance of the Medical Men writing to you on the 2d of June prove more than the Fact that at that early Period they had determined to combine?
That is all, I think.

It shows a great Concern, not for the Board of Guardians, but for their own Interest?
Certainly.

Supposing they felt that they had not been sufficiently remunerated the last Year, why should not they combine and require the Guardians to give them an adequate Salary, they tendering to the Guardians an Inquiry into the Fact whether their Salaries were sufficient?
It did not appear in their Mode of communicating their Views to the Guardians that it was satisfactory or conciliatory to the Board; any individual Guardian could have brought forward the Subject, and proposed an Increase to their Salaries.

The Board did not object to the Medical Men combining, but to their being driven to accept the Terms of that Combination?
Yes; the Effect of the Combination was what we resisted.

How did you know what Terms they proposed?
We were not aware what Terms they proposed; all they combined to do was to resist our Terms.

They state that, from the Experience of the last Year and other Circumstances, they are satisfied that the Salary was not sufficient; was not it worth while to inquire into those Circumstances to ascertain for yourselves how far that was justified?
We should have done that on the 16th of June.

Did you suppose that after that Letter was written, and they had declined, they would attend on the 16th of June?
Yes, for they wrote again on the 16th of June.

The Question refers to the Meeting on the 2d of June, when you received that Letter; could you expect them to attend on the 16th of June, when they renounced their Intention of contracting again unless you made some Advance to them?
That is their Statement.

How would you then have had an Opportunity of inquiring into those Circumstances and that Experience?
That was the Time, between the 2d of June and the 16th, to have communicated.

Then why did you not avail yourselves of the Time for the Communication?
The Advertisement invited them to the Election on the 16th of June.

In point of fact, though those Gentlemen might have refused those Terms, were you without Hope that some others might have come forward who would have accepted them?
Just so.

You had formed those Terms on Grounds which will be hereafter stated, and you had Reason to suppose they were sufficient, and ought to be satisfactory?
Yes.

If those Gentlemen had declined, was not it open to you to treat with other Gentlemen?
Yes.

The Board was annoyed at perceiving a general Combination of the Medical Men in the District to resist those Terms?
Yes.

When did you first hear of any Resolution not to notice any Gentleman who should accept those Terms?
On the 16th, the Day of Election; it was from Mr. Young.

Did you feel yourself competent to treat with them before the 16th of June?
I think not.

Would it not have been an Injustice to other Candidates who might have put themselves to great Inconvenience in preparing themselves to come forward?
I think so; we were pledged to the Public, having put forward the Advertisement to call them.

They might have come from a Distance?
Yes. The Salaries were fixed, and the Day of Election fixed; it was open to all Medical Men to offer.

You had been satisfied with the Performance of the Duties before?
Yes.

Then would it not have been advisable to have got the same Persons as much as possible?
We should have been glad to do so.

You would have been glad to have given them an Opportunity of coming forward?
They had an Opportunity on the 16th.

You have stated that you were not aware of any Dissatisfaction of the Medical Men, on account of those Salaries, previous to the Receipt of the Letter?
On the first Formation of the Union there was a general Disposition to find fault with the Pay of the Medical Officers.

Was not there some Understanding that the Question of the Salaries should be reconsidered at the End of the Year, and that the Appointment was in the first Year only on an Understanding that there should be an Increase of Salaries?
I think it had been mentioned that the first Year we were not able to say exactly what was the Course of Practice in this new Appointment, and that it was a Sort of Year of Trial.

It was thought at the Time that there would be probably some Increase at the End of the Year?
I forget whether that was stated; we had no Workhouse for the first Year; the Workhouse at Bridgwater being built, that would take away a great many sick Persons from the Districts, and thereby relieve the Surgeons and Medical Officers from a great deal of Labour.

That being the Case, might not those Gentlemen reasonably suppose they would have something like a Priority the succeeding Year?
They had the Option of Election; they might have been elected, and I think that Mr. King would have been elected to the Workhouse, had it not been for what we supposed to be a Combination, which was proved by the Resolutions they had formed, not to hold Intercourse with certain Medical Men.

The Circulars were sent out without previous Communication with those Gentlemen?
Yes.

So that they had not that Priority?
No, certainly not; when we could not agree with the other Medical Officers, on the 16th, Handbills were circulated around the Neighbourhood, inviting the

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Medical Men of the Neighbourhood to the Election on the 23d. Then all our Medical Officers attended at the Board on the 23d, and we had Conversation with them on that Day; the Board were anxious to treat with them then.

You say you could not agree with them on the 16th; did not they state their Willingness to take different Districts at certain Prices, as appears at Page 63 of the printed Paper?

Their only Offer on the 16th of June was this: "Sir, The undersigned Medical Gentlemen beg respectfully to inform the Board of Guardians, that they are willing to undertake the Care of the Poor on fair and equitable Terms, although they cannot accept the Offer contained in the Circular Letter addressed to them. They beg to direct the Attention of the Board to the Fact, that the Average Payment on the Population of the Bridgwater Union is considerably lower than in others." That was the only Offer on the 16th of June.

Did those Officers, or some of them, propose that they would undertake Charge of the Districts, Nos. 2, 6, 7, and 8, at Four-pence a Head?

On the 23d of June they did.

There was no such Communication made on the 16th?

No.

Did the Election take place on the 23d of June?

No, on the 14th of July; we could not agree on the 23d of June.

When were you first in communication with the Gentleman who has now taken the Bridgwater District?

On the 13th of July, when he appeared at the Board.

Was that the first Time you had any Communication with him?

Yes; I believe he had had Communication with the Clerk; that he wrote a Letter of Inquiry, and the Clerk had answered his Letter, previously to his appearing in the Town.

Was Mr. Bowen present upon the 2d of June?

He was.

Did he take any part in your Debates?

Yes; some violent Altercation took place between him and another Guardian.

Was he one of the Persons that was indignant at this Letter of the Medical Officers, or not?

No.

He rather supported that Letter?

Yes.

He was a Gentleman who refused to allow the Thing to be unknown?

Yes; he claimed a Right to make known every Proceeding.

Do you refer the Expression in the Letter of the 6th of June in which they talk of "having heard vague Reports of their being charged with uncandid and improper Conduct," in consequence of which they "feel that they are called upon in defence of their personal Characters to deny directly and unequivocally the Truth of such a Charge," to him?

I do not know that I attribute it to him; I think that many Guardians had mentioned Things besides him.

With respect to the Declaration made by the additional Nine Medical Men to the Letter of the 2d of June, did you understand that to be a Declaration direct to the Board, or to the Seven Medical Men which you added to them?

A Declaration direct to the Board; it was in the same Letter; the Medical Gentlemen's Communication was on the one Side of this Sheet of Letter Paper, and that of the Nine Gentlemen was on the other.

Was it on the Back of the same Page, or on the other Leaf?

I think one was on the one Leaf, the other on the other.

It was Part of the same Document?

Yes.

Was it necessarily Part of the same Document; was it written on the same Leaf?
It was the same Sheet of Paper, only not on the same Page, I think.

There was no Postage to be evaded?
No.

Was the Address on the Outside; or was it in an Envelope?
I think it was in an Envelope.

Were the Nine Gentlemen who signed the Addition, and the Seven Gentlemen who wrote the Letter, the whole of the Medical Men in the District?
All, except Mr. Young and Mr. Phillips, who were Candidates for Appointments.

It could not be addressed to any other Parties but the Board of Guardians?
No.

Was it not intended as a Testimonial which those Seven Medical Men got for your Satisfaction, that if those Medical Men were applied to they would not give an Opinion contrary to that which they there expressed?
It would be difficult to hold that to be a Testimonial, I think.

Was the Gentleman who had the North Petherton District one of the old Practitioners employed, or a new one?
He was one of the old Medical Men.

Did you consider it unnatural on the Part of those Gentlemen, or was it not a very natural Step for those Gentlemen, most of whom were young Men, to obtain a Confirmation of their Opinion from their elder Friends in the Profession?
I do not think it was the natural or usual Way of communicating their Views.

[On reference to the Letter of the 2d of June it appears that the Address to the Board of Guardians of the Union is on the Back of the Certificate of the Nine Medical Gentlemen.]

With reference to the Salaries fixed by the Advertisement of the 22d of May 1837; are those the Salaries now given in the several Districts?
No; Two of them are, I think.

In the Bridgwater District is the Salary the same?
No.

What is the Salary there?
When we found we could only fill up Two of the Vacancies on the 16th of June, Advertisements were then issued inviting Medical Officers to come to the Board on the 23d of June.

Was any Alteration made between the 22d of May and the 16th of June in the proposed Salaries?
No.

Were the Two Districts then taken at the Prices you fixed on the 22d of May?
Yes.

What were those Two?
The Polden and the Hill, Mr. Young's and Mr. Phillips's Districts.

Do those stand now at 30*l.* and 35*l.*, or has there been any Increase since that?
Those are the Salaries that are now paid.

As to the Bridgwater District, what is that now let for?
When we found that we were not able to come to any Terms on the 23d of June, we then thought it advisable to re-construct the Districts, and to alter the Salaries. The Board then passed this Minute: "Moved by Thomas Poole, Esquire, and seconded by Mr. James Somers, That the Clerk be directed to advertise in the Lancet, Medical Gazette, Morning Chronicle, Standard, Bristol Mirror, and Bath and Cheltenham Gazette Newspapers, for Medical

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Gentlemen to take charge of the Poor of the under-mentioned Districts, at the Salaries affixed to each; viz., Bridgwater District, comprising the Borough and Parish of Bridgwater, with a Population of 7,807, together with the Union Workhouse, which is of a Size to contain 300 Paupers of all Classes, at a Salary of 130*l.* per Annum; North Petherton District, comprising the Parishes of North Petherton, Thurloxton, Michael Church, Broomfield, and Goathurst, with a Population of 4,679, at a Salary of 75*l.* per Annum; Cannington and Stowey Districts to form One District, comprising the Parishes of Cannington, Chilton Trinity, Wembdon, Durleigh, Charlinch, Enmore, Nether Stowey, Over Stowey, Aisholt, Fiddington, Edstock and Beer, Stockland-Bristol, Otterhampton, and Spaxton, with a Population of 5,620, at a Salary of 80*l.* per Annum; Huntspill District, comprising the Parishes of Huntspill, Pawlett, Puriton with Woollavington, and Woollavington, with a Population of 3,001, at a Salary of 50*l.* per Annum."

What was done with respect to Middlezoy?
That was taken by Mr. Young, at 35*l.*, on the 30th of June.

You put out a fresh Advertisement on the 23d of June?
On the 16th of June we put out an Advertisement inviting Medical Men for the 23d of June.

In consequence of that Advertisement had you Applications from any of the Persons who had signed the Letters of the 2d of June to take any of those Districts?
Yes; we had Offers on the 23d of June; they were Offers sent in in consequence of the Advertisement issued on the 16th of June; this Advertisement on the 23d was in consequence of the Offers made not being accepted.

Did that contain the same Terms as that of the 16th, or were the Terms increased?
After the Appointment of Mr. Young and Mr. Phillips it was, "Moved by Andrew Crosse, Esquire, and seconded by R. K. M. King, Esquire, That the Appointment of the remaining Medical Officers be postponed until this Day Week; and that the Clerk be directed to advertise by Handbills for Medical Officers to fill the remaining Districts; and that Tenders will be received from Medical Gentlemen duly qualified until Ten o'Clock in the Morning of the 23d Instant. Moved, as an Amendment, by Mr. John Dalley, and seconded by Mr. W. P. King, That the Sum of 4*d.* per Head on the whole Population of the Union be fixed as a Remuneration for the several Medical Officers of the Union, with the Exception of Districts Nos. 3 and 4, already filled; and that a Committee be appointed to apportion the Amount to the several Districts, according to the Number of the Population and the Number of Acres of each District. Upon a Division the Amendment was negatived, and the original Motion carried."

The Advertisement on the 16th of June contained the same Terms with respect to the Districts which had not been let on that Day as the Advertisement of the 22d of May?
The Advertisement of the 16th of June was issued, inviting Medical Gentlemen to tender for Districts 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, as formed on the 18th of May; it contained no Mention of Salaries.

Had Mr. King, Mr. Poole, Mr. Caswell, Mr. Addison, Mr. Tilsley, Mr. Toogood, and Mr. Ruddock, made a Tender on the 16th of June?
Yes, they had; a joint Tender.

What was that Tender?
It is in these Terms:—"Sir, The undersigned Medical Gentlemen beg respectfully to inform the Board of Guardians that they are willing to undertake the Care of the Poor on fair and equitable Terms, although they cannot accept the Offer contained in the Circular Letter addressed to them. They beg to direct the Attention of the Board to the Fact, that the Average Payment on the Population of the Bridgwater Union is considerably lower than in others." That is signed by all the Medical Officers. That is the only Communication we received from them.

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On the 23d did you receive a Communication from those Medical Gentlemen?

Yes. "The Clerk produced the under-mentioned Tenders he had received from Medical Gentlemen, agreeable to Advertisement, which were read; the Terms of which are as follows: Mr. James Coles Parker, for the Workhouse, 50*l.* a Year, and 10*s.* per Case for Midwifery, if taken indiscriminately; if otherwise, 20*s.* Mr. Abraham King, for the Bridgwater District, 3*d.* per Head on the gross Amount of Population, and 10*s.* per Case for Midwifery, if taken indiscriminately; if otherwise, 20*s.* Mr. William Lakin Caswell, for the Huntspill District, 4½*d.* per Head on the gross Amount of Population. Mr. Joseph Addison, for the Middlezoy District, 3¾*d.* per Head on the gross Amount of Population, and 10*s.* per Case for Midwifery, if taken indiscriminately; if otherwise, 20*s.* Mr. Robert Young, for the Middlezoy District, 40*l.* per Annum. Mr. Horatio Nelson Tilsley, for the North Petherton District, 4½*d.* per Head on the gross Amount of Population, and 10*s.* per Case for Midwifery, if taken indiscriminately; if otherwise, 20*s.* Mr. John Evered Poole, for Cannington District, 4½*d.* per Head on the gross Amount of Population, and 10*s.* per Case for Midwifery, if taken indiscriminately; if otherwise, 20*s.* Mr. Richard Beadon Ruddock, for the Stowey District, 4½*d.* per Head on the gross Amount of Population, and 20*s.* each for difficult Cases of Midwifery. Considerable Discussion took place relative to the foregoing Tenders and the Appointment of Medical Officers. Robert Weale, Esq., addressed the Board at some Length on the Subject, as did several of the Guardians. Moved by Mr. Thomas Ward, and seconded by Mr. William Pitman King, That Mr. Richard Beadon Ruddock be appointed Medical Officer for the Stowey District, at a Salary of Sixty Pounds per Annum. Moved, as an Amendment, by T. W. Inman, Esq., and seconded by Thomas Poole, Esq., That in the Opinion of this Board the Tenders of the several Medical Gentlemen are more than an adequate Remuneration for their Services, and that they be not accepted. Upon a Division, the original Motion was negatived, and the Amendment carried." Then there was a Resolution, "Moved by Thomas Poole, Esquire, and seconded by T. W. Inman, Esquire, That the Sum of 450*l.* for the whole Medical Care of the Union, including the Workhouse, be given to the Medical Men for their Services, and for each Case of Midwifery 10*s.* as before; which, on a Division, was negatived." "It being understood that several of the Medical Gentlemen were in attendance, they were called before the Board; viz. Mr. James Coles Parker, Mr. Abraham King, Mr. John Evered Poole, Mr. Richard Beadon Ruddock, Mr. William Lakin Caswell, and Mr. Joseph Addison, and informed that the Terms contained in their Tenders could not be complied with, they being so far beyond what were paid in other neighbouring Unions, which the Board regretted, but they were desirous of meeting them fairly and liberally, and requested they would retire and see if they could not offer some other Terms that the Board might accept. After having retired for a few Minutes, they returned, and stated that they should adhere to their Tenders, and would not take the Appointments on any other Terms. Being asked what would be their Charges if called in in Cases of Sickness amongst the Poor, they stated that they would be the same as in the Case of any other private Patient. Moved by Thomas Poole, Esquire, and seconded by Mr. James Somers, that the Clerk be directed to advertise in the Lancet, Medical Gazette, Morning Chronicle, Standard, Bristol Mirror, and Bath and Cheltenham Gazette Newspapers ——"

Not being able to agree with those Gentlemen, did the Board adjourn the Election of the Medical Officers?

Yes; they directed the Clerk to advertise, and in the meantime requested the Medical Officers to take charge of the Districts. Then on the 30th of June a Letter from Mr. Robert Young, Surgeon, was read, offering to take charge of the Poor of the Middlezoy District on the Terms before offered, viz. 35*l.* It was thereupon moved by Mr. James Somers, and seconded by Mr. Simon Morle, That Mr. Robert Young be appointed Medical Officer to the Middlezoy District, from this Day to the 24th of June next, with a Salary at the Rate of 35*l.* per Annum, which, upon a Division, was carried.

You were understood to have stated that the Salary of that is now 40*l.*?

That was the Advertisement put out on the 23d of June, but I think that it

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was filled up, previously to the Advertisement, by Mr. Robert Young. There are only Four Districts advertised on the 29th of June.

Was it the Fact that Mr. Robert Young tendered on the 23d of June at 40*l.*, and was not elected, but that he was elected on a subsequent Day at 35*l.*?
Yes.

After the Advertisement of the 23d of June you had some Offers from Persons not resident within the Township?
We had Offers of Medical Men not resident within the Union.

When did Mr. Ward offer?
He offered on the 14th of July.

Had you an Offer from any Persons but those resident within the Union till the 14th of July?
No; there were Letters on the 7th of July, written by Gentlemen, making Inquiries respecting the Duties of the Office, and enclosing Testimonials. Letters were severally read by the Clerk from Mr. John Rodney Ward, Mr. Francis R. Moseley, Mr. Walters, Mr. William Rowland, Mr. W. S. Gill, and Mr. C. Smith; together with the Clerk's Reply to each Letter.

Where did Mr. Ward date his Letter from?
He wrote from Newcastle-on-Tyne. Mr. Moseley from No. 21, Lincoln's Inn Fields.

You proceeded to the Election, and elected Mr. Ward?
Yes; one other Medical Officer also tendered on that Day.

Had you any other Tender for the Bridgwater District and the Workhouse?
Mr. King tendered. "The Clerk produced Letters from the under-mentioned Gentlemen, offering themselves Candidates as Medical Officers for the following Districts, which were read; viz. Mr. Abraham King, for the Bridgwater District and Union Workhouse; Mr. Horatio Nelson Tilsley, for the North Petherton District; Mr. William Lakin Caswell, for the Huntspill District; Mr. Richard Beadon Ruddock, for the Cannington District. Moved by the Rev. Samuel Starky, and seconded by Mr. Richard King, That Mr. Horatio Nelson Tilsley be appointed the Medical Officer for the North Petherton District, on the Terms of the Advertisement set forth by the Board of Guardians in the Lancet of the 1st Instant. Which, upon a Division, was carried, and Mr. Tilsley was declared duly elected."

Have you Mr. Abraham King's Tender?
The Tender is this: "To the Board of Guardians. Gentlemen, I take leave to send you my Bill for Midsummer last; and at the same Time to offer myself as a Medical Attendant for the District marked No. 1., and the Workhouse, in your Advertisement of the 17th of June, on the Terms contained in my Letter to you of the 23d of June; and also for the Workhouse, on the Terms then offered by Mr. Parker. Should this Offer of my Services be accepted I will engage to give up the Amount of the accompanying Bill for Attendance on the Poor from the 24th of June, and to commence with the Salary from that Day. In case the above Offer should not be accepted I hereby offer to contract for District No. 1. on the Terms of your Advertisement in the Standard; and I trust, Gentlemen, that your Experience of the Manner in which the Medical Duties of the District entrusted to me have been performed is such as to justify my again soliciting the Confidence of the Board. I remain, Gentlemen, your obedient Servant, Abraham King."

The Tender he had made on the previous Day was at so much a Head for the District?
Yes; and Mr. Parker had offered for the Workhouse for 50*l.*

Did you take the Trouble to see how far that Offer per Head, made by Mr. King on the preceding Day, was greater or less than the Sum that was proposed to be given for it?
Mr. King's Offer at 3*d.* per Head, together with the 50*l.* for the Workhouse, would

would have amounted to more than 130*l.* a Year; the Amount for the District at 3*d.* per Head would have been 97*l.* Mr. Parker offered for 50*l.*

He offered also subject to the Payment of his Bill?
Yes; provided the Board would pay him his Bill, for 60*l.*

The Offer to take it at 50*l.* contemplated the Payment of 62*l.* for his Bill, did it not?
Yes.

Why did you not accept his Offer of 130*l.*?
If we had accepted his Offer we should have paid that Bill of 62*l.*

Was that the Reason you did not accept his Offer?
No, that was not exactly the Reason we did not accept his Offer.

That shows, however, that in a Money point of view it would have been disadvantageous?
Yes; Mr. King had in the Minds of the Guardians excluded himself from Eligibility by the Statement he made. Mr. Abraham King was called before the Board, and asked if he was under any Obligation that prevented his acting professionally with any Gentleman now acting as Medical Officer in the Union: he stated that he was.

Who was that Medical Officer?
Mr. Young had been elected Medical Officer of the Hill District; Mr. Phillips had been elected Medical Officer of the Polden District; and Mr. Young was also Medical Officer of the Middlezoy District; and Mr. Young was excluded from all Communication with the Medical Officers, as he stated to the Board, merely because he had accepted the Appointment under the Board.

It was not that they thought him an incompetent Person, for they had asked him to join their Medical Association?
Certainly, he had been invited to that Association.

You were obliged to increase the Offer for the Bridgwater District and the Workhouse to the Amount of 30*l.* from your first Proposal of the 22d of May?
Yes.

In that Case does it not appear to you that those Persons were justified in saying that you fixed the Salaries too low on the 22d of May?
When we advertised on the 23d of June, we advertised for our Advertisements to go more widely.

But you increased the Salaries you had proposed?
We did.

Are you to be understood that between the 22d of May and the 23d of June you had discovered that you had fixed too low a Sum for the Attendance upon this District?
We found that we could not induce Medical Men resident in the Neighbourhood to take those Salaries, and we thought it better to increase the Salaries and to invite Strangers to the Neighbourhood.

If the Sum had been sufficient in the first place on the 22d of May why was not it sufficient on the 23d of June?
We were anxious to secure the Appointment, and therefore we made the Place more eligible.

Is it not clear that a Person who is situate in the District and has private Practice can undertake such an Office at a cheaper Rate than a Person who comes from a Distance without any Connexion in the Country?
Yes, certainly.

Therefore that Sum which might induce a distant Practitioner to come into the Union ought to have been sufficient for the Medical Residents there?
I should think so.

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Would it not have been some Advantage to have taken Medical Men who had been accustomed to the Districts and the Poor, if you could get them at the same Rate?

That would have been desirable if they would have taken it on fair Terms.

Their Complaint was, that you had not fixed a sufficiently high Salary, and you were obliged to fix a higher; does not it appear that they were right in that?

Probably the Board would have been disposed to increase the Salaries if they had acted otherwise.

If that was not the Effect, you were not right in the Salaries you fixed?

The Board took a great deal of pains to fix the Salaries. We had heard no Complaints in the other Unions of the Scale being disapproved of.

But between the 22d of May and the 23d of June you found that you had fixed too low Salaries?

Our Notice was circulated out of the Neighbourhood; we wished to secure the Attendance of Medical Gentlemen, in order not to be beaten by the Medical Men.

In order not to be beaten by the Medical Men you made that Increase in the Salaries?

Yes.

Therefore the Expense to the Parishes was as great as if you had attended to their Letter of the 2d of June?

No; the Salaries we fixed were not so high as those Medical Gentlemen demanded.

Did they demand any thing before the 2d of June?

No.

That Letter of the 2d of June is a mere general Letter, stating that they had not been sufficiently paid for their Labour, and that the Scale of Salaries was not sufficient?

Yes.

Subsequently you altered it, and made a Tender upon that Alteration of yours?

Yes.

Would it not have been as well, as you found that since the 22d of May you had been actually obliged to increase the Salaries, to have tried whether you could not have come to Terms with those Gentlemen on the 2d of June, and given them some Increase on the Salaries you advertised?

On the 16th of June they made no Offer. On the 23d of June they made an Offer amounting a higher Salary than we now pay to our Medical Officers.

What Guarantee have the Guardians that if they assented to their Terms this Year they would not raise them again next Year?

None.

What Guarantee have they that on the 25th of June next Mr. Ward will not require a larger Salary?

We have none.

Is not he content with it?

Yes.

Was not the Door open to Discussion up to the 16th of June?

Yes.

You fixed certain Salaries on the 22d of May, to which those Medical Gentlemen objected; would it not have been as well to have tried to have negotiated with them on the 2d of June, and to have made them the same Increase of Salary which you have been obliged to make since?

We omitted to negotiate with them on the 2d of June; we should have been very glad to negotiate with them on the 16th of June; we attempted to negotiate with them on the 24th of June as would appear from the Minutes; and when the

the Medical Men were requested to withdraw and consider other Terms; they refused to give other Terms than 4*d.*; and we have obtained less Terms since. *G. Warry, Esq.*

Those less Terms are entered into by a Person who comes from a Distance, and is obliged therefore to take a Dwelling and be at considerable Expense?
Yes.

All of which the former Medical Men would have saved by making a fair Offer?
Yes.

Do not you think the Offer made to the Medical Men resident must be more profitable to them than the increased 30*l.* could be to Mr. Ward?
I should think so.

Are you satisfied that your Advertisement of the 22d of May contained a sufficient Salary for this District?
Yes, I should think it was a sufficient Salary compared with the Payment of the other Medical Officers in the County of Somerset.

And compared with what Mr. Ward now has?
Mr. Ward's present Salary is rather higher, but taking their relative Position it is more nearly equal.

What you offered to give the Medical Men would have been of more worth to them than the Payment you made to him, considering he came from a Distance?
Yes?

The Question was equally to the Medical Men there as to Mr. Ward; if it had not been for the other Circumstance Mr. King would have had it?
Yes.

Was not he called in and asked how far he would consult with certain other Individuals?
Yes, he was.

That was previous to the Question whether he should be elected?
Yes; then by his stating that he was in that Position that prevented his communicating with the Surgeons of the District, it prevented his being elected. If he was sent to the Workhouse he must have been in communication with the other Surgeons of the District, and when the Guardians saw there was that Combination he was rejected.

The Salary being increased?
Yes; and Mr. King had previously refused to accept any other Terms from the Board than 97*l.* and 50*l.*

Some of the old Officers were appointed; for instance, Mr. Tilsley was appointed, and Mr. Caswell?
Mr. Tilsley was appointed, I think, first to the North Petherton District.

Was he asked that Question?
I think he was not, before he was elected.

In your Advertisement of the 22d of May that District stands at 55*l.*; it is now let at 75*l.*, the Population being reduced?
The Population in the first Year was Six Parishes containing a Population of 4,973; the first Year's Salary, 63*l.*; then, according to the Advertisement of the 22d of May, it is 4,679, and the Salary fixed for it was 55*l.*

That is now fixed at 75*l.*; does not that Fact prove that they were justified in stating in their Letter of the 2d of June that the Remuneration was not sufficient?
I should hardly say that that was the Case; when we are obliged to pay a high Price it is not always Evidence that the Thing is worth it: we were compelled to increase those Salaries because we could not get Men to take them.

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Labour is worth what it can obtain?
If there were Medical Men in the District who had not the Expense of coming into the District, I think it would not have been worth so much.

Circumstances do sometimes happen to interfere with the Freedom of the Market?
Yes.

First of all you go to another Market, and you obtain another Person at an increased Salary, in one instance; in the other, you obtain a Person resident, and are obliged to give him an increased Salary. Do you think those Facts taken together are no Justification of those Medical Persons saying the Salaries were not sufficient?
When we increased the Salary it was to invite Strangers to come into the District, and as the Matter was then open to Strangers or the Medical Men resident there, I apprehend Mr. Tilsley was elected because no Stranger appeared.

Though you invited Strangers, you could get none to accept any but the Bridgwater District?
The Practice in the Workhouse was the great Temptation to come, no Doubt.

A Workhouse contains a certain Degree of Hospital Practice, and adds very materially to the Experience?
Certainly.

The Cannington and Stowey Districts were also taken by Mr. Ruddock and Mr. Poole?
Yes.

The Salary there was also increased, was it not?
Yes.

Not sufficiently to induce any Person to come from a Distance?
We thought it a sufficient Salary.

The Increase is 5*l.*?
Yes.

Was that 5*l.* put on as an Inducement to a Person to come from a Distance?
There was a slight Increase; an Advertisement was issued with a view to bring Persons from a Distance.

Was that Sum of 5*l.* supposed to be sufficient, or was the Salary not thought sufficient?
We thought that the Salary of 80*l.* was sufficient.

It had been stated before at 75*l.*?
Yes.

Was that Increase put on to induce a Person to come from a Distance?
I do not know; every Addition to the Salary would make it more eligible, of course.

You having been obliged to make an Alteration in Five of those Districts, would it not have been as well, before you had brought Matters into a State of Dispute between you and the Medical Persons, to have endeavoured to have made some Arrangement with them, you being quite satisfied with their Conduct the previous Year?
Unfortunately, the Feelings of the Bridgwater People are not very conciliatory. I knew nothing of this till I came to the Board on the 2d of June, but a great deal of Conversation had passed in the Town and Neighbourhood before the 2d of June. There is not a very conciliatory Spirit between the Parties, and I cannot answer for the Consequences of it. I am very sorry that that Letter of the 2d of June was written, and, still more, that of the 6th, because it completely prevented our coming to any Arrangement on the 16th; but it was only an accidental Circumstance, an Omission to acknowledge the Letter.

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One of the Medical Officers, attending on my Family on the Sunday subsequently, never mentioned the Subject, and he was received in my House just as courteously as ever. They published that Letter Two Days before they sent it to me.

Do you remember a Conversation with Mr. Baruch Toogood, in which you stated to him, he being a Medical Officer, "It is only the first Year; I dare say another Year the Thing will work better and be paid better;" and that you had some Intention of forming Medical Clubs, and adding the Salaries of the Medical Clubs to those of the Union?

That has been my Impression, and I believe I did state that to him.

Mr. Toogood states in his Evidence: "I recollect One Instance, where I was requested to go to visit a Midwifery Case at some Miles distant; the Clergyman of the Parish came to me and represented the Person to be in a dangerous State. On the Road I met the Relieving Officer; he told me I should certainly have an Order. I told him I had none. I went to see the Person; she was not in a State to be delivered; I prescribed for her; she was not delivered then, and because she was not delivered I was never paid by the Board, which made us careful not to go unless we got actual Orders from the Officer; I rode Sixteen Miles, and got nothing for it." Then he is asked: "Did you call it a Midwifery Case because the Woman was suffering Pain with her Pregnancy? Yes.—How soon was she delivered? The Day afterwards, I think.—You were not present then? No.—The Pangs of Labour had taken place? Yes; the Labour was protracted.—Because you were not present at the Time she was actually brought to bed you received nothing? No.—Did you go the Sixteen Miles again to attend her? I was not sent for to attend her afterwards.—Should you have expected to be paid for Two Labours if you had gone a Second Time and attended her? Certainly not.—You did expect to be paid something for going, though she was not brought to bed? Yes, because the Clergyman of the Parish came to tell me, and I met the Relieving Officer." Do you recollect a Refusal on the Part of the Board?

I cannot call it to my Mind; if the Circumstances were stated, and the Place, perhaps I could call it to mind.

Do you think the Board could, with Justice to the Rate-payers, have made an Order for the Surgeon to receive Half a Guinea for an Attendance on a Case where he did not deliver the Woman?

I should have said so; my Opinion is that the Board would give him his Half-Guinea, having ordered him to attend the Woman.

Is not the Circumstance of his going away presumptive Evidence that he did not consider her in immediate Want of his Attendance?

I should say so; I do not know how it was that he was not afterwards in attendance; the Case being committed to him, I think he was responsible for it; it is a Resolution of the Board, over and over again, that where a Pauper is once committed to a Medical Officer, he is not to give her up unless the Order be recalled.

Suppose a Medical Man were to leave her to attend another Patient, and that she is delivered in the meantime?

I should say that he would be entitled to his Fee; if a Medical Man does not see an immediate Prospect of Delivery, he goes away, and returns when he is sent for again. There was an Occasion on which Mr. Baruch Toogood applied to the Board, conceiving that he ought to have been called in on an Inquest on a Person who died in his District, so as to entitle him to the Fee for attending before the Coroner. They gave their Opinion that he ought to have been called in. I mention that only to show the Feeling of the Board as it respected their Medical Officers.

You received Testimonials with Mr. Ward?

Yes.

Have you those Testimonials with you?

No; they are in his own Possession; I apprehend they are his own Testimonials, and I suppose were returned to him.

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Was he a Member of the College of Surgeons?
I cannot speak to say positively; he produced a great many Testimonials.

Of what Nature were they?
Of various Kinds; he had some Foreign Degree, they were very high Testimonials; he had Testimonials from some Hospital in London, where he had been, I think, Twelve Years.

They did not appear to be inferior to those of any of the Gentlemen in Bridgwater?
By no means; they were very superior Testimonials.

Were any of the Board acquainted with Mr. Ward?
Not in the slightest Degree.

Their Choice was in consequence of the Opinion they formed of his Fitness?
Yes, entirely.

Mr. King was a Candidate also?
Yes.

You were understood to say, that, but for the Circumstance you have referred to, he would have had a very good Chance?
Yes; his Testimonials were very good also.

He had served you for a Year, and you were satisfied with his Services?
Yes.

Did you make any Inquiry how far Mr. Ward had passed his Examination as a Surgeon after his Education?
We made no Inquiry; we had no Time to make an Inquiry; the Testimonials were presented to the Board on the Day of Election, and they were sufficient Documents.

You do not know whether there was a Document stating how he had passed his Examination?
I do not recollect the precise Documents; the Documents were produced before the Board; I am not certain that he had one; I am certain the Documents were very satisfactory.

Do you remember where he had practised?
I think at Leyden.

You have stated that he had Testimonials from an English Hospital?
Yes, he had; the Female Lying-in Hospital near St. Paul's, I think.

What aged Man is he?
I suppose he is Forty.

Had he been long settled in Newcastle or London?
I think not; I think I understood that in consequence of Ill-health he had gone down to the North; in consequence of breaking a Blood Vessel I was informed.

Where had he practised as a Surgeon or Apothecary?
In London; I think he had practised Ten or Twelve Years in London.

Mr. Ward's Testimonials were considered ample?
Quite satisfactory.

As far as you could observe it was not from any Favouritism towards Mr. Ward that he was appointed?
Not the slightest.

It was from the Excellence of his Testimonials he was elected?
Yes, and from a Determination to resist the Combination.

After the Experience of a Year have you been satisfied with Mr. Ward's Competence for the Situation?
Quite satisfied.

G. Warry, Esq.

Has he not appeared rather superior in the Management of the Poor to what you had before?
The Poor, as I hear, come to him in great Numbers from all Parts of the Neighbourhood.

Has he not, in consequence of that Degree of Reputation he has gained, acquired considerable private Practice?
I am told that is very great.

Has not the Animosity of the other Doctors against him been increased by that Circumstance?
I think that very likely.

That Animosity has not ceased, has it?
It continues now as much as ever.

Do they not refuse to associate with him?
I understand they do.

On One Occasion when he wanted a Consultation, was not he obliged to send a great Distance to a Surgeon to consult with?
I believe the Surgeons have refused to meet him in Consultation, and that a Physician who has met him in Consultation has been sent to Coventry by the Medical Association at Bridgwater.

Do you remember the Case of Charlotte Allen, which is referred to in the Pamphlet which has been published?
I did not recollect the Case till the Medical Officers Pamphlet appeared.

It has been brought to your Knowledge?
Yes.

Do you know, from Inquiry, that she was delivered on Friday the 30th of June 1837, after a difficult and violent Labour?
I do not know that it was a difficult and violent Labour; I believe it was her first Child, and that is generally perhaps the most violent.

Was any Complaint made to the Board of the Relieving Officer not having given an Order for the Medical Person in charge of the District to attend her?
I have no Recollection of the Facts of the Case, except so far as I was subsequently informed; all I know about it I believe has transpired since; I have no Recollection of it, and it was not likely I should, for the late Mr. Poole, who lived in the Parish, would have taken the whole Management of it upon himself; if I had been in the Chair I should have taken very little part in it, in consequence of his great Attention and Experience.

Do you know what has become of the Woman?
She is in the Workhouse at this Time.

After she had been reported unable to move for some Time, did not she receive an Order for the Workhouse?
Yes; the Guardians determined to have her into the Workhouse; we told Mr. Ward specially to investigate the Truth of the Charges contained in the Pamphlet; and he made a Report that she had neither a Prolapsus Uteri nor a Laceration of the Womb.

Was she not in consequence of that ordered into the Workhouse?
We determined then to have her into the Workhouse.

Did she come into the Workhouse?
Not then.

What became of her?
I think the Relieving Officer told me that after having been kept in Bed without moving out she got into a Cart, and went in that Cart over the Quantock Hills, to get out of the Union; it was suggested that the Change of Air might do her good, and the Board allowed her *2s. 6d.* a Week for a few Weeks, and the Relieving Officer was directed to go out and see her.

G. Warry, Esq.

Where was she sent to?
Across the Quantock Hills. I fancy she got better, but I was absent from the Board immediately after that. When I went to the Board one Day, I was surprised to hear she was in the Workhouse.

How is she now?
She is better. I went to see her, and I asked her whether the Thing was so bad as it had been represented. She stated, no, she was better.

Has she a Prolapsus Uteri?
Mr. Ward says she has not, and that he shall restore her.

Do you believe "that the Remainder of her Existence will be miserable to herself, and intolerably offensive to those around her"?
No, by no means. When I saw her standing in the Sick Room in the Workhouse, she did not appear so much of an Invalid as I expected to see, and she never has been offensive; that was stated before the Board; the Question was asked, and the Nature of her Disease was inquired into.

Do you recollect any Orders being given to the Relieving Officers during the Time the Medical Persons were to be paid as usual for Patients, not to be free in giving Orders for Medical Relief?
After their Contracts had expired it was intimated to me that the Medical Officers were very active in attending Patients, and running up Bills. This was communicated to me respecting the late Mr. Caswell, that he was going out in all Directions, picking up Patients.

They were not so active previously?
They were not.

They were rather displeased at being directed to attend Persons who they thought were not in a Condition to require it, were they not?
Yes. Mr. Caswell had complained of that, and that is what he refers to in his Letter of the Second Poor. After that he went to the Parish Officers, and obtained Orders from them, and compelled them to give him Orders by wholesale, for Mr. Caswell showed me a List of Paupers who had been assigned over in a List to him, authorizing him to attend.

You cautioned the Relieving Officers upon this Subject?
Yes. They were told to be discreet in giving their Orders, but, above all things, to take particular Care that during the Difference with our Medical Officers no poor Person was suffered to want Relief; that Direction was given, over and over again, from the Chair.

Do you remember a Letter being written to the Board, by Mr. Parker, about the Case of a Man of the Name of John Cook?
As that Letter has been made the Subject of Conversation since at the Board, I remember it, but I did not remember it before.

Do you remember an Order having been given to Mr. King to attend that Case?
I do not remember the Circumstance; at the Time of the Matter being investigated it was stated to have been given to him, I remember.

Do you know Cook, or any Part of his Family?
No; it was stated that he was not a Pauper, that he was not entitled to Relief.

Is not he a Shoemaker?
Yes, and earning great Wages.

With respect to Mr. Caswell, you say that he had been very active since he was to be paid by the Case like an independent Patient, but that previously to that he had not been so active?
He had not been so active in getting Patients, certainly.

Was not he elected to some other District afterwards?
Yes, we had no Choice; we could not find any one else to take it.

Though this was the Case, you thought it right to elect him?
Yes, or the Poor must be neglected.

With respect to Mr. Tilsley, when he was appointed to the North Petherton District, and he was to receive a Salary of 75*l.*, what was said about his Bill at that Time?
It was not objected to; it was paid.

What was the Amount of it?
15*l.*

That was thought a moderate Account?
Yes, it was thought so in comparison with others; and Mr. Tilsley's Conduct all through has been courteous; it has been said that Mr. Tilsley signed the Letter of the 2d of June with great Reluctance, but I cannot speak to that.

When Mr. Ruddock's Appointment came into question, were there any further Proceedings upon that Occasion?
There was a Candidate for that District, one of the Strangers who had come.

What District was that?
The Stowey District; there were Two or Three Strangers. Mr. Moseley had also been desirous of obtaining the Bridgwater District and the Workhouse, but Mr. Ward was elected to it; the Feeling of the Board was against Mr. Ruddock generally; they would have been glad to have elected a Stranger to that District.

Who was elected to that?
Mr. Ruddock was elected afterwards; Mr. Moseley was elected first, and, on being told that he must take charge immediately of the Patients (I think before he left the Room), he turned round and said he declined accepting the Appointment. Then it was proposed that Mr. Ruddock should be selected, and he was.

Was there considerable Feeling in favour of Mr. Moseley on that Occasion?
There was; the Feeling of a great many of the Guardians was in favour of Mr. Moseley, and Two of them left the Room asking if they might propose him to the Appointment; they came back after some Delay and said they were authorized to propose him, and they did propose him.

Mr. Moseley had not tendered for that particular District?
No, he had not.

Is it true that Two of the Guardians went out, that the Proceeding was delayed till their Return, and that he was then elected?
There was a Room outside, where he was in attendance; they went out and asked him whether he was willing to take the District, and they came back and stated that he was; and in the meantime there was some Delay in the Election.

After that, you took into consideration the Bills which had been brought in for the Three Weeks Service of the Medical Officers?
Yes.

Those Bills amounted to 248*l.*?
Yes.

What Offers did you make to them?
We offered to refer the Bills to Two mutual Friends, and to give those Friends the Power of choosing an Umpire.

Was the Offer refused by them?
It was refused by all but Mr. King.

Was there an Offer of any Sum?
Yes, previous to that.

What was that Offer?
I think it was double the Amount of the Proportion of their Year's Salary.

G. Warry, Esq.

Was Mr. King's Bill settled by Reference, or not?
Yes.

What did he demand?
62*l.* I think.

What did he get?
I forget exactly what we paid him then; subsequently that was increased after the Verdict of the Jury; they struck off only 25 per Cent. of Mr. Poole's Bill; then the Board said they would strike off only 25 per Cent. of Mr. King's Bill, and put him into the same Situation.

He was paid Three Fourths?
Yes; there is this Minute of the 27th of October:—"Moved by the Honourable P. P. Bouverie, and seconded by Mr. James Somers, That to those of the Medical Officers who are now under Contract to the Board a Tender be made for their Services for the Three Weeks that intervened between their First and Second Contract at double the Rate for which they have contracted for the remaining Forty-nine Weeks of the current Year." That was carried.

Was the Offer made to them 38*l.* 13*s.*?
No further Offer was made than the Resolution which has been read; I do not think that was communicated.

That was refused by them?
Yes.

Was there a Division upon it?
I suppose there was; I cannot state; that does not appear upon the Book.

They state that it was carried by a Majority of One?
The Medical Men have reported the Numbers who voted upon Questions; we never took the Numbers.

If you had engaged those Persons to serve on the common Terms of other Patients how could you expect they would make so great a Deduction upon their Bills?
We considered them to be pauper Patients; they never could expect to be paid as if they were attending rich Patients; and if we gave them double the Amount of what they had contracted for we thought that a fair Remuneration, and particularly as they were all then Officers of the Union, except Mr. King, and he agreed to a Reference; and I think he got about Half, which the Board offered to increase after the Verdict. On the 11th of November there was a Letter from Mr. King, offering to submit his Bill to Arbitration; it was thereupon "moved by Mr. James Somers, and seconded by Mr. W. P. King, that a Committee be appointed for the Purpose of examining the said Bill and report to the Board thereon; and that they consist of the following Gentlemen, namely, Mr. James Somers, Mr. William Pitman King, and Mr. Francis Price. Carried unanimously." The Board sometime in the Month of October requested me with Two other Guardians to meet Mr. Caswell in order to negotiate an Arrangement with him; we appointed to meet him on the Saturday Morning at Ten o'Clock, Three Miles from Bridgwater; previously to meeting us he went to Bridgwater, which is quite out of his Way, and then he refused to take any Sum short of the 92*l.*, and stated that he was not able to take less.

Did he state from what his Inability arose?
No, he did not.

Was there at any Time any Complaint made to the Board of their having neglected to answer written Communications from the Medical Officers?
I do not recollect any Circumstance of the Kind.

Is it true, as has been stated, that, from the first Day of the Formation of the Bridgwater Union to the 9th of June 1837, the Civility of a Letter in reply was never deigned to any Communication from any Medical Officer of the Union?
I am not aware of that.

G. Warry, Esq.

You do not recollect any Complaint on that Subject?
No; there have been Suggestions from Time to Time sent to the Board by the Medical Officers, but they were merely Information, which required no Answer, except the Acknowledgment of its having been received; our Proceedings have run to such a Length, I have sat there till Candle-light, and many things have been omitted, which perhaps strictly in Courtesy ought to have been done, but they were omitted at the Time; and when the Board separated and we have gone home, I have had to ride Nine Miles in the Dark.

You think that reasonable Men would make Allowances?
Yes.

You have had considerable Difference of Opinion in your Board?
Yes; we went on very well the first Year.

Is there a Hope of Things getting better?
I fear not.

You are not Chairman now?
No.

You are an ex officio Member?
Yes.

Do you continue to attend the Board?
Yes, I have been down since I have been in attendance here to the Election of the Surgeons.

Do you know whether other Unions are in the habit of contracting at a certain Sum per Head?
Yes; I believe it is the Practice. I have Accounts here of several of the Unions where the Medical Men stated that to be the Fact, and we ascertained what the Payments in several Unions were.

Are the same Medical Men all re-elected?
Yes; I went down and attended on the Friday Morning; the Election came on at once.

When they were elected did any of them say that they accepted it, not because they thought that sufficient was done, but because they hoped that something would come out of the Inquiries into the State of the Bridgwater Union either here or elsewhere?
No, nothing was stated that I am aware of; I saw none of them; I wished particularly that the Election should stand over, and suggested to the Board that it should stand over for a Quarter of a Year, in order that, supposing any Suggestions with regard to the Medical Appointments should come from your Lordships, or the Committee of the other House, we might then put Things on a permanent Basis.

Had you offered Mr. Tilsley for North Petherton 75*l.* a Year?
There has been an Alteration of the Districts.

Is the gross Amount of Salaries the same, or different?
The Salary of Mr. Tilsley is the same, but he has an outlying Parish added to his District, which was found very inconvenient in the District in which it was, and it could not be annexed to any other District than Mr. Tilsley's, and a Sum has been given to Mr. Tilsley for the Care of that Parish.

Was the Amount of Salary for the whole in the Year 1838 the same as in 1837?
No. Mr. Ward's Salary is the same. I think 10*l.* has been added to Mr. Tilsley, for taking the Lyng District. It was not at all with his Consent that it should be added to his District; it was inconvenient to him, and it was necessary to add that, to induce him to take it.

Have you re-appointed the Medical Men with that Addition at the same Rates?
I believe so.

If there had been any Attempt to reduce the Salary of North Petherton, do you not think you would have known it?
There has been no Attempt to reduce the Salary.

G. Warry, Esq.

To what District did the Parish of Lyng belong?
To the Middlezoy District.

Have you not deducted from the Middlezoy District, in consequence of taking off that?
Yes, we have deducted from the Middlezoy District, but not to the same Amount; but I doubt whether Middlezoy District is filled up; I have an Idea that Mr. Young was chosen and has declined taking it.

You stated the Salaries of the Medical Men for the Bridgwater Union at 370*l.* for the first Year?
Yes.

What is the Amount of Salaries of the Medical Men for the Bridgwater Union at present?
445*l.*

Have you ever heard of a Woman of the Name of Winslade, who, from a flooding, became insane, in consequence of not being properly attended to, in consequence of the Relieving Officer delaying the Order?
I think there was a Pauper of that Name in the Bridgwater Workhouse, who was some time ago sent to a Lunatic Asylum at Bath; but I never heard that she was insane from any Want of Treatment of the Medical Man. My Attention has never been called to any improper Treatment respecting her; I never heard the Case before.

Do you remember the Period of her Admission into the Union Workhouse?
No; I should have said she had been an Inmate of the Bridgwater Workhouse for some Time. I have seen her at the old Workhouse.

Mr. King attended the Workhouse at that Time?
Yes, he did, the first Year.

[The Evidence of Mr. Abraham King upon the Case of Mary Winslade is read to the Witness, and he states: "I never heard of the Case before."]

Are you aware of Mr. Caswell having attended the Case referred to by Mr. Abraham King, and being refused Payment?
No; there are certain Rules by which we are regulated, of course.

Shall you be able to give any Evidence in respect to the Prevalence of Diarrhœa in the Workhouse, in the Time comprehended by Mr. Bowen's Pamphlet?
Not from my own Knowledge of the State of the Workhouse.

Are you aware that the Diarrhœa existed in the Workhouse?
I was not aware, until after Christmas 1836, of a Disease called the Diarrhœa existing in the Workhouse. It is now stated to have commenced in October 1836. It so happened, that on the first Mention of Diarrhœa I was not at the Board.

You never received a Communication from Mr. King upon the Subject?
I have not much Recollection of Mr. King's Letter, though I was at the Board that Day. I find from my private Memoranda the Bishop was at Bridgwater respecting the Church Building Society, and I was called upon by Mr. Bouverie and others to go and attend that Meeting, and I left the Room; and I think, from my Recollection of that Letter, it must have been received while I was absent.

Did you receive from the Medical Officers or the Visiting Committee repeated Complaints of the Existence of Diarrhœa and the Diet Table?
No, I do not remember any.

If any such had been presented, would they not have been entered upon the Minutes?
I should think so.

Did you constantly attend the Board as Chairman during that Period?
Yes, unless when I was attending at the Quarter Sessions during the Week, or was prevented by some Accident.

Except from such Circumstances as those, you were usually present?
Yes, I was.

G. Warry, Esq.

If frequent Complaints had been made upon the Subject of the Diarrhœa, you would have heard of them?
Yes; the Visiting Committee's Book does not contain any such Statement.

Nor any Complaint of the Diarrhœa?
No.

Did Mr. Bowen never mention that at the Board?
He was not a Member of the Board at the Time; but he has never brought forward any Statement.

You never heard any Complaint of the Gruel?
No. A Gentleman of the Name of Baker has mentioned once or twice that the House was in an unhealthy State, and he wished the Board to bear that in mind, and not to order so many in; but that is the only Circumstance I can remember affecting the Health of the Workhouse.

That it was not capacious enough?
That the Paupers were not in a very healthy State, and therefore it was desirable they should not be so crowded. There was a Letter Mr. King wrote to the Board, in which he says, he recommends to them not to send in old People above such an Age with sore Legs. I have his Letter here; it is dated the 13th of December 1836. "The Visiting Committee presented a Note from Mr. King, Medical Officer for District No. 1, which was read, stating that he considered it very desirable not to admit Persons above the Age of Sixty having ulcerated Legs into the Workhouse. The Board was of opinion that the Medical Officer should be consulted before Admission."

There is no Complaint about the Diet or the Diarrhœa?
On the 27th of September the Diarrhœa appears to have been mentioned; I was not in the Chair; there is no Mention of Diarrhœa in the Visiting Book for some considerable Time afterwards, so that the Disease of Diarrhœa was never before the Board.

During the Time you were Chairman were you in the habit occasionally of inspecting the Workhouse yourself?
I went there occasionally, but not so often as I wished, having so far to go home and being kept so late; but I have been in the habit of going once a Week of late.

During that Time did you hear of any extensive Illness in the Workhouse?
No; I visited the House towards the End of May 1837, when the Diarrhœa was raging, and then the Disease made certainly great Impression upon my Mind, from the very thin emaciated Appearance of some who had been affected by it, but then an Alteration had taken place in the Dietary, and the Governor stated that the Persons were recovering, but I had no Idea till then of the Existence of the Diarrhœa to such a Degree.

Does the Board sit at the Workhouse?
It did not then; it met at the Town Hall; it does now.

Were you in the habit of attending at the House as one of the Visiting Committee?
No.

Your Residence is at a Distance?
Yes, Nine Miles. With my Attendance there, and my Attendance as a Magistrate, I felt that my Time was too much interfered with.

Who is the Chairman of the Board of Guardians now?
The Hon. Mr. Bouverie, the Brother of the Earl of Radnor.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned to Monday next, Twelve o'Clock.

Die Lunæ, 18° *Junii* 1838.

The Lord WHARNCLIFFE in the Chair.

Evidence on the Operation of the Poor Law Amendment Act.

Mr. HORATIO NELSON TILSLEY is called in, and examined as follows: *Mr. H. N. Tilsley.*

YOU are a Surgeon?
Yes.

At Bridgwater?
North Petherton.

Is that near Bridgwater?
Three Miles from Bridgwater.

In the Bridgwater Union?
Yes.

You had Charge of the North Petherton District from June 1836 to June 1837 as the Medical Officer?
Yes.

Have you that District now?
I have.

You have taken it again?
I have.

When you had it from June 1836 to June 1837 the Population was 4,967?
I believe that was the Population.

And your Salary was 63*l.*?
Yes.

Now the Population of your District is 4,697, and your Salary is 75*l.*?
Yes.

You have taken it this Year?
After Midsummer.

Lyng is added to it?
Yes.

What is the Population of Lyng?
363.

And there is a small Addition made to your Salary on that Account?
Yes; 12*l.*

Then 87*l.* you get for the ensuing Year?
Yes.

Then the Population of your District, including Lyng, is not more than the Population of the North Petherton District was from June 1836 to June 1837?
Rather more.

Do you live in the Centre of your District?
Yes, I should think about the Centre.

How far are the extreme Points of your District from your Residence?
On the West the extreme Point is about Six Miles almost, and certainly not so far now on the East; about Five, I should presume, is the very Outside at present.

Mr. H. N. Tilsley.

Do you now live in North Petherton?
I live in the Town of North Petherton.

You had been settled at North Petherton before you took the District?
Yes.

How long?
Twelve Years last Christmas.

You took the District at a Salary of 63*l.* the first Year; did you find it answer to you at that Rate?
No.

Did you make any Remonstrance in the course of the Year?
No.

Had you any Conversation with the Guardians or any of the Guardians with respect to the Way in which your Services were remunerated?
I might have had with individual Guardians, but not with the Board; I believe I did express my Feelings to some of the Guardians.

You keep a Horse or Two for your Profession?
Yes.

How many Horses do you keep?
Two.

Did you always keep Two, or did you take more in consequence of having this District?
I kept Two in consequence of having this District.

How many did you keep before?
Only One.

Did One do your Business?
Yes.

Has your Business, independently of the Paupers, increased since you took this District?
Last Christmas Twelvemonth I entered into Partnership with another Medical Man in North Petherton.

What is his Name?
Strong. He keeps two Horses; so do I now.

Supposing you had not taken this District, how many Horses would have been sufficient for you and your Partner?
Three, certainly.

Therefore it makes the Difference of the Keep of a Horse to you?
Yes, it does.

Can you give any Notion of the Amount you have expended in the prime Cost of Medicines for the Relief of the Poor?
No, I cannot; I never kept a separate Account of that.

Can you give the Committee any Notion upon that Point?
No, I cannot; I know that I have used occasionally a great many Leeches, which are sometimes very expensive; as to fixing any Sum, I really cannot.

What would be the prime Charge to you for Leeches?
We have paid from 3*s.* to 4*s.* 6*d.* a Dozen for Leeches.

Once used do they ever recover again?
We never take them again.

What do the Chemists charge?
From 3*s.* to 4*s.* 6*d.* a Dozen; 4*s.* 6*d.* has been the highest Price I have paid.

Besides your Salary you get 10*s.* each for Midwifery Cases?
Yes.

You get nothing for Fractures or Surgical Cases?
No.

Do you get any thing for Vaccination?
No.

How many Cases of Midwifery should you say you had in the Year?
I do not believe I have had more than Four during the Two Years.

Did you not make some Calculation before you took that District in June 1836 as to how far it would or would not answer your Purpose?
I knew that it would not answer my Purpose.

But when you took it did you not make some Calculation of what the Result would probably be to you as to Profit or otherwise?
I did not expect any Profit.

Then what induced you to take it?
In order to keep other Surgeons from coming into the Neighbourhood.

And so interfering with your Custom?
Exactly so.

At the End of the Year was it proposed to you to take the North Petherton District at a Salary the same as in the former Year, or at any less Sum?
At a reduced Sum.

In consequence of its being so offered to you what did you do; did you remonstrate?
I remonstrated with the Board.

Upon what Occasion did you remonstrate?
After the Board had fixed the Prices for the ensuing Year the Medical Men addressed a Letter to the Board.

Did you remonstrate with the Board personally or singly, or did you join in that Letter, and is that the Remonstrance to which you allude?
I joined in that Letter; that is the Remonstrance to which I allude.

After that Letter what Steps were taken with respect to the raising of the Salary for the North Petherton District; had you any Communication with the Guardians upon that Subject?
No, I think not.

The Advertisement upon that Subject, fixing a Salary of 50*l.* for the North Petherton District, was dated the 22d of May 1837?
I do not recollect the Date.

How long after that was it that you contracted for it at this increased Price at which you have now taken it?
We addressed a Letter to the Board, saying that we could not take the different Districts, I believe, immediately after the Board had issued their Prices.

How long after that was it that you made any other Offer to them?
We then offered gratuitously to attend the Paupers till the Board could provide Medical Men.

That Offer was refused?
Yes; we were desired to attend the Paupers as private Patients, and to be paid in that Way.

Was there not an Offer made to take them at so much a Head?
Yes, there was; I forget how much per Head it was.

Were you personally a Party to that Offer?
I was.

How came the Sum of 75*l.* to be fixed as the Salary, the Board of Guardians having put it down at only 55*l.*?
I think the Board advertised in the different London Papers offering the Sum of 75*l.*

Mr. H. N. Tilsley.

Then the Offer did not come from you for 75*l.* but the Offer came from the Board?
Yes.

There is an Association at Bridgwater, which is called by the Name of "The Bridgwater Medical Association"?
I do not know that there is now; there was then.

Were you a Member of it?
Yes.

At what Time was that formed?
It was formed some Time in May or the early Part of June.

Was it formed previously to your writing that Letter of which you have spoken?
I do not recollect.

That Letter was received by the Board, as it appears by the Minutes, on the 2d of June; was the Association formed before you wrote that Letter, or was it formed subsequently to your writing that Letter?
I do not recollect.

Can you recollect ever attending the Association in any Way before you wrote that Letter?
I do not know, but I think it must have been before; I do not recollect; if I knew I would state.

That Letter was accompanied by a Sort of Adhesion to it on the Part of other Medical Persons living at Bridgwater?
Yes, it was.

Will you have the goodness to state what was the Object which you, who signed that Letter, had in view in getting that Paper, adhering to what you had said, signed by the other Medical Persons?
That they should not take the different Districts of the Union.

Your Letter states that you could not take the Districts upon the Salaries proposed, and that Letter is signed by all those who had the Charge of the Districts in the preceding Year; why did the Surgeons who had the Charge of the Districts, and who had found the Salaries not sufficient, think it advisable to have this Certificate or Declaration of Adhesion from the other Medical Gentlemen?
It was because we wished to show that it was a general Feeling.

Were you, generally speaking, the Juniors of the Profession, and were the others who signed it the Seniors?
Not all of them.

Was it signed by all the others as well as by yourselves in consequence of any Direction given or any Resolution passed at the Bridgwater Medical Association?
Certainly not.

It arose from the Feelings of yourself and of the others who had been in charge of Districts?
It did. There was no such Resolution when I was present at the Association. A Letter was shown to me, and I was asked whether I had any Objection to sign it, and I said none.

You do not recollect whether the Association was formed before the 2d of June?
No, I do not.

If you do not recollect that, probably it was not formed long before?
I do not recollect.

What was the Object of the Association?
To uphold the Character and Respectability of the Profession altogether.

Mr. H. N. Tilsley.

Did you think that the Character and Respectability of the Profession had been attacked, so that it wanted upholding?
Yes, by the very low Prices which had been paid.

Was it not rather to uphold the Emoluments of the Profession?
We did consider it derogatory to us to take such low Salaries.

You consider that you have received an expensive and liberal Education, and you therefore thought you were entitled to a proper Remuneration?
Yes; that was the Object, certainly.

It was with that Object that that Paper was signed; but you say it was not signed in consequence of any Direction from the Association, or any Resolution on the Part of the Association?
No, it was not.

Did you attend the Board upon the 16th of June, upon which Day the Board were to consider the Salaries again?
I do not remember.

When was it that you gave in your Tender to take the North Petherton District at 75*l.* a Year?
That was I think about the 12th or 13th of July, after the Expiration of Three Weeks.

On the 16th Mr. Phillips and Mr. Young were elected, and the further Election was postponed till the following Week, the 23d?
Then I did attend on the 16th; I recollect now.

On the 23d did you attend?
I did not.

You made a Tender at 4½*d.* a Head?
Yes.

Those Tenders were not accepted, and then they determined to advertise for other Tenders at the advanced Sum, and it was upon that Day that they advertised for North Petherton 75*l.*?
I believe it was.

You say on the 23d you made a Tender of 4½*d.* a Head; what would the Amount of that have been upon your District?
Between 80*l.* and 90*l.*

Upon your District without Lyng?
Yes.

You finally agreed to their Tender of 75*l.*?
Yes, on the Payment of my Bill for Three Weeks.

What was the Amount of that?
15*l.* 18*s.*

Had you had many Pauper Patients during those Three Weeks?
I think I had about the average Number.

There was no Objection made to your Bill?
No, there was not.

Were there any bad Cases among them, or were they the common Cases?
Common. Some inflammatory Cases.

Had you, between the 2d of June, or the 16th of June, and the Time at which you took Petherton, any Conversation with the Board, or were you consulted by the Board with respect to the Amount that was to be paid for the Care of the Petherton District?
No, I believe not; not between the 16th of June and the 14th of July.

Were those Three Weeks particularly unhealthy?
Not in my District.

Mr. H. N. Tilsley.

Was there any Agreement made at this Medical Association among the Medical Men that they would not tender for those Districts unless there was a more liberal Salary given them?

I do not remember that there was; I did not attend all the Meetings of the Association.

Do not you believe that there was an Understanding between the Medical Men that they should not tender at the small Salaries; have you any Doubt about it?

There might have been an Understanding; I rather think there was; I do not remember precisely.

Do you remember Mr. Young taking One of the Districts?

Yes; I believe that was on the 16th of June.

Was that the Hill District?

I forget whether it was the Hill District or the Polden; the Hill District I think it was.

Mr. Young having taken that District is it true that none of you who belonged to that Association at Bridgwater held any Communication with him in your Profession?

Certainly it is not; it is not true with me, for till that Day I never knew Mr. Young.

Is it not true that a certain Number of the Persons, at any rate, who belonged to that Association have in point of fact declined to attend to any professional Business if they are to meet Mr. Young?

We all dined together and were very friendly at the Bridgwater Branch of the Provincial Medical Association.

Is Mr. Young a Member of it?

He is.

Is Mr. Ward?

No, he is not.

Were you at the Board upon the 16th of June, when Mr. Young took One of those Districts?

Yes; if it was the 16th of June that Mr. Young was appointed I was there.

Were all the Medical Men in a Room together upon that Occasion?

No, I believe not.

Do you remember Mr. Young coming out of the Board Room after he had taken that District?

No, I do not; I did not know Mr. Young on that Day till all the Business of the Board was over, and then some Person pointed him out to me.

Did you hear any Gentleman apply to him any Reproaches for having taken it?

No; I have heard of such, but I did not hear them.

You say you have a Partner with you; at the present Price of 75*l.* how came it that it did not answer your Purpose, and that the Salary has been increased in consequence, 12*l.* being added to your Salary?

I did not ask for an Increase.

Do you mean to say that if it had not been added you would not have required an Increase?

Yes, I should; I did not ask for it. The Board wrote to know whether it would be inconvenient to me to have Lyng added to my District, as it was inconvenient to the Medical Officer to have it in the other District; and I replied that it was inconvenient to me.

Has any thing been said to you by any Members of he Profession, finding Fault with you for having taken that District?

Not at all; I do not recollect a Word of the Sort.

Mr. H. N. Titsley.

You do not consider by so doing that you have put yourself on unpleasant Terms with the Members of the Association?
I do not meet the Association; I do not know whether it is in existence or not.

There was another Gentleman who took a District at the same Time with you, Mr. Poole?
Yes; Mr. Poole or Mr. Ruddock was appointed on the same Day. The Two Districts were, I think, united; that Mr. Poole and Mr. Ruddock had before Cannington and Stowey, but which of the Two were appointed I do not remember.

A Pamphlet, called "Facts connected with the Medical Relief of the Poor in the Bridgwater Union," was published by the Association, drawn by Three Gentlemen for the rest of the Association; do you know any thing of that?
It never had my Sanction.

You never sanctioned the Publication of that Pamphlet?
No.

This is the Entry: "Moved, that it be adopted at this Meeting;" at which you are said to be present. "Moved by Mr. Ruddock, and seconded by Mr. Toogood, that this Meeting will not recognise or hold intercourse with any Medical Practitioner who dishonours the Profession, by acting in opposition to the foregoing Resolution."
That was the very Day of the Formation of the Association.

When was that?
I do not remember.

You dissented from that?
From the Pamphlet.

Did you agree to that Resolution?
The Publication of the Pamphlet and the Formation of the Association had no Connexion with each other.

The Pamphlet was the Production of those Gentlemen?
I do not know who produced the Pamphlet.

It is stated to be published by Order of the Association?
It is.

But you are not aware that that was so?
No.

You never gave your Sanction to it?
Never.

Did you protest against its being published?
I was not aware that it was coming out.

When it was out did you make any Remonstrance?
I did.

To whom?
To Mr. Poole, who showed it to me.

Did Mr. Poole act as Honorary Secretary?
Yes.

Have you withdrawn from the Association in consequence?
Not formally, but I have not attended for many Months; I do not believe I have attended since I was appointed.

Is it still in existence?
I am not aware that it is; I am not aware that they have any Meetings now.

Why did you object to the Publication of this Pamphlet?
Because it contained many Assertions that I knew nothing of.

Mr. H. N. Tilsley.

And therefore you told Mr. Poole that you would not sign it?
Yes; that I should not sign it, and would not authorize him to sign it on my Behalf.

You did not remonstrate with the Association?
No; I have not met them since.

Did you state the Ground of your Objection to sign it when you said "I will not sign it;" did you assign your Reasons for that Refusal?
No, I think not then; but when it was shown to me in Manuscript, which was by the way a very different Thing from that Pamphlet, then I did say that I dissented altogether from it, for I thought it was political.

That it arose from political Feelings?
That was what I said.

A Resolution was read to you at a Meeting at which you were present,—"Moved by Mr. King, and seconded by Mr. Poole, that this Meeting pledges itself not to accept any Appointment under the Poor Law Amendment Act without the Sanction of the Committee." Had you the Sanction of the Committee for accepting the Office that you did accept?
I do not know that I attended to that.

Was that the Reason for your withdrawing from the Association?
I never have formally withdrawn, and I do not know really whether the Association is at this Moment in existence or not.

Have you ever received from the Association any Remonstrance in consequence of your having taken this District?
Never.

Have any of the active Members of the Association looked coolly upon you in consequence of your having taken this Office?
No, I do not think they have; I am as friendly with them as usual.

There has never been any thing like a Determination shown by them not to meet you professionally?
Not at all.

Do you consider yourself bound not to meet Mr. Ward?
No.

You would have no Objection to meet him?
I have met him since, but I do not see him once in Six Months. When they were removing the Children from North Petherton Workhouse to Bridgwater Mr. Ward sent for me, and I met him.

Have you ever met him in private Practice?
No.

Was it in the last Summer that you met him?
I think in the Autumn.

When the Workhouse was at Petherton had you more to do than you have now?
Yes; but in addition to the 63*l.* they gave me something.

What did they give you in addition?
There was a Gratuity presented to every Medical Officer on account of the Influenza, and my Gratuity on account of the Influenza and for the Workhouse were thrown together.

What was the Gratuity that was made to you?
£15.

What did they give the other Medical Gentlemen?
Ten per Cent., I think.

If you had Ten per Cent. what would you have had?
Six Guineas for the Workhouse.

Mr. H. N. Tilsley.

Then the Workhouse was taken away from your District, which relieved you of a good deal of your Work, and the next Year you had 75*l.*?
Yes.

Now you have 87*l.*?
After Midsummer next.

How many Paupers were there in the Workhouse?
From Seventy to Eighty.

It was in the Town?
Yes; about Two hundred Yards from the Place where I lived.

From Seventy to Eighty on the Average?
Yes, I think so; not quite so many at the Commencement.

Was Amy Ellis Matron of the Workhouse at Petherton?
Yes.

Do you remember a certain Person of the Name of Harriet Binden in the Workhouse at Petherton?
Yes.

She was in a very feeble State of Health, and you ordered her some Tea and Sugar and Butter?
Yes; I remember her Case.

Did you ascertain whether immediately upon your ordering her those Things she got them?
I believe it was in the Case of Harriet Binden that I had occasion to remonstrate to the Board.

In what Way did you remonstrate, and upon what Subject?
About the Omission to send the Two or Three Articles.

To what Extent did that Omission go, how long did it last, and was there any Omission as to the Quantity, or was it only as to the Time of providing the Articles that were ordered?
I do not think that my Note in the Book applied only to Harriet Binden, but Two or Three Times Articles had been omitted to be sent.

Whose Fault was that?
Gover's, I understood.

When you had ordered those Things and they were not sent by Gover, did not Mrs. Ellis supply them from her own Store, and replace them in her own Store when they were sent by Gover?
I do not know.

Did you find the Patients suffer from the Want of the Articles that you had ordered?
No, I do not believe they had suffered; Mrs. Ellis used to send them in a Bason of Tea occasionally from her own Store.

Did you complain?
Yes, I did.

During the Time that you had charge of the Workhouse was there any Diarrhœa in it?
Yes.

To any Extent?
Yes, to some Extent for some Time.

What Time was that?
It lasted for only a few Days.

Had you any Deaths in consequence?
No; there was One Child who died some Time after being in the Workhouse, but he was brought from Bridgwater in a very bad State of Health.

He had the Diarrhœa at the Time of his being removed from Bridgwater?
Yes.

Mr. H. N. Tilsley.

Had you any Diarrhœa originating in the Petherton Workhouse?
Yes.

Did the Diarrhœa spread in consequence of that Child being brought to the Workhouse?
No; the Child was brought after the Diarrhœa had ceased in a great measure.

Was the Diarrhœa prevalent in the Neighbourhood at the Time?
Yes; it was prevalent through the District with my private Patients.

Do you think that there was a greater Proportion of Cases in the Workhouse than in the Neighbourhood?
I think upon one Occasion there were Fifteen.

Do you think that was a greater Proportion than the Proportion in the District?
Yes, I think it was.

Is it catching?
I do not know; I think it may be where a great Number of Patients are confined together very closely.

Were they closely confined in the Workhouse at Petherton?
Not very.

Do you attribute any Part of that Diarrhœa to the Dietary?
When it set in, and I had Fifteen or Twenty Patients at once, I did think so.

In consequence of so thinking did you make any Remonstrance with respect to the Dietary, requesting that it might be varied?
It was just at the Time when the Diarrhœa was raging at the Bridgwater Workhouse I desired the Matron, Mrs. Ellis, to get some Milk and give it to a Portion of them, and to allow the others to go on with the Oatmeal Gruel; and the Fact was that they all got well together.

You do not attribute the Diarrhœa to the Gruel?
No; I did at that Time, but I did not afterwards.

Are the People in your Country accustomed to that Sort of Food?
No.

Have they any thing of that Sort; any Mixture of Flour and Water?
No.

What is their usual Food?
Potatoes.

Do not they drink a great deal of Tea?
Yes.

Is not that a very inferior Sort of Tea?
Yes; I believe it is low-priced Tea.

Do they eat Bread?
Yes, they eat Bread and Potatoes.

A considerable Quantity of Bread?
They eat more Bread now they are supplied by the Board than they did before.

Is not the common Food of that Country very much Potatoes?
Yes, a large Quantity of Potatoes.

Meat?
Very little.

Bacon?
Very little Animal Food of any Kind.

Are they well supplied with Milk in general?
No; the Poor get very little Milk with us.

Mr. H. N. Tilsley.

Do you think that the Gruel is as little likely to give them Diarrhœa as the Potatoes that they eat?
I found Diarrhœa prevail upon the common Diet of the Country at the Time.

And therefore you regard it more as epidemic than any thing else?
Yes.

North Petherton is an open airy Country?
It is rather low; the Town of North Petherton is rather low.

And the Town of Bridgwater is very close, is it not?
The Town of Bridgwater is on a lower Level than North Petherton.

That Part is unhealthy at all Times, is it not?
No, I think not.

Is not the Part of the Town where the old Workhouse is situated very close?
No, it is not in the Town; it is on the South of Bridgwater, immediately outside the Gate; but not confined, excepting by its own Walls.

Is it near the River?
Perhaps 200 or 300 Yards from the River.

It is a Tide River?
Yes.

And leaves muddy Banks?
Yes.

In consequence of this Diarrhœa did you make any Representations to the Guardians upon the Subject of the Dietary; and was the Dietary, in fact, altered?
I made no Representation to the Guardians in consequence of their all getting simultaneously well.

Was the Dietary altered?
There was a Change in the Dietary, but that was some Time after; not in consequence of any Representation of mine.

That was when the Bridgwater Workhouse was completed?
Yes; some Time after, I know.

Have you lived for Twelve Years at the Place you reside at now?
I have, with very little Intermission.

Had you any Parish under your Charge before the new Poor Law?
I had the Parish of North Petherton.

Did they allow you so much a Head there for Midwifery Cases?
Yes, they gave me a Guinea per Head before.

And you always attended those Cases yourself?
Yes, always.

You never employed a Midwife, and paid her for attending Cases?
No.

Is it the Practice in that Country in a great many Cases for the Labourers to employ Midwives to attend their Wives?
Yes.

Have you never known Cases where a Medical Man has taken a Sum from the Parish, and employed a Midwife to attend the Pauper?
No.

You attended North Petherton before the new Law?
Yes.

What is the Population?
About 3,600.

Mr. H. N. Tilsley.

What did you receive for that?
Forty Guineas for the Parish and the Workhouse, and a Guinea for each Case of Midwifery; if they sent me out of the Parish to attend a Pauper I had *5s.* for my Journey.

Then you had suspended Orders?
I had not One.

How many were there in the Workhouse in the Parish of North Petherton prior to the passing of the new Poor Law upon the Average?
I do not know; I should say Thirty or Forty, but they were not Children.

Was Mrs. Ellis the Matron then?
Yes; and her Husband was perpetual Overseer. I do not know whether she was employed as Matron; she did attend the House.

Do you think that the Poor are as well taken care of under the new Poor Law Amendment Act as they were under the old System?
The sick Poor certainly are.

They are as well taken care of when they are ill as they were under the old System?
I should say better.

You say you took Petherton for Forty Guineas a Year and a Guinea for each Case of Midwifery; comparing that with your present Salary for the District you have, which is the better Thing?
The Parish of Petherton. In the Parish of Petherton I was constantly employed to see private Patients, whereas now I am called into Parishes that I have no Occasion to go into at all on other Accounts.

It was much easier for you to attend the Parish of Petherton?
Yes.

But, taking the Amount of the Population of the Parish of Petherton and the Population of your present District, which do you think would be the better Thing?
The Population is not doubled now, and the Salary will be doubled for the ensuing Year.

Then you have longer Distances to go?
Yes.

Have you found yourself under the Necessity of giving up or refusing any private Practice in consequence of your increased Duties?
No, I do not know that I have given up any private Practice; I have certainly considerably more to do, and I have much harder Work.

When you signed the Circular on the 2d of June what Names were then signed to it?
I do not know what Names there were to it; I think there were Three or Four.

At that Time were the Names attached to the Postscript?
Some were, I believe.

Some of the Names attached to the Postscript were then signed when you signed it?
I believe they were.

How many of them?
I do not know.

Do you recollect what Names they were?
I do not. I was not the First who signed it.

Those Gentlemen who sanctioned your Letter by this Postscript were the senior Practitioners in the District, were they?
Some of them, not all.

Mr. H. N. Tilsley.

Mr. Jonathan Toogood?
Yes.

Mr. Axford?
Yes.

Mr. Hairland?
Yes.

Mr. Stradling?
Yes.

Mr. J. Toogood?
Not Mr. John Toogood; he is my junior; Jonathan is my senior.

Mr. J. C. Parker?
He is my junior.

Mr. Gill?
He is my junior.

Mr. Poole?
He is my junior.

Mr. Robert Baker?
He is my junior.

The Four first Names attached to that Letter were the leading Practitioners in that District?
Yes.

And those Names were signed to that Postscript before you signed it?
Yes.

Your Name stands Second in the Signatures; Mr. King's Name is First, and then your Name?
Yes.

Did Mr. Abraham King sign at the same Time you did?
Not at the same Time.

Do the Committee understand you rightly that the Four leading Practitioners of the District had signed the Postscript, sanctioning the Letter which you signed, before any other Signature was attached to it but Mr. King's?
Before I signed it.

This is the original Letter; your Name is Second?
I signed Second, but there was a Space left for me to sign.

Are you senior to those whose Signatures appear below yours?
I am senior to every One of them.

Can you recollect whose Names were signed to that Paper at the Time you signed it?
I believe they were all there, with the Exception of Addison and Caswell; the major Part of the Nine annexed Signatures were signed before I signed.

And the Four Names of the leading Practitioners in the District were there when you signed it?
I believe they were.

Was it sent to you to be signed?
Yes, it was; I signed it at North Petherton.

Did you understand before that it was to be sent to you, or was that the first Time you had seen it?
That was the first Time that I had seen it.

Do you recollect what Day that was?
No.

How did it come to you?
I believe it was Mr. Parker's Servant brought it.

Mr. H. N. Tilsley.

If you had not seen the Names of those Four senior leading Practitioners should you have been inclined to sign your Name in common with the other Six, asking for a larger Salary?
Yes, I should.

You felt thoroughly convinced that that Application was reasonable?
Yes.

But you had more Confidence from seeing the other Signatures in the Postscript?
Yes.

You thought yourself more likely to succeed when the Medical Gentlemen of longer Experience in the District sanctioned it?
Yes.

Are there many Paupers who, under the old Law, received Medical Assistance at the Expense of the Parish who now pay for it themselves?
No, I think not.

You think as many are paid for at the Expense of the Parish as formerly?
Yes; I have none pay me whom I have formerly attended as Paupers.

Have you any Medical Clubs?
No.

Were they attempted in your District?
In the Union there was some Stir made about it, but not in my District.

Are there as many, or nearly as many, attended at the Expense of the Parish as were formerly?
I think so; none of those whom I ever attended before the Union now pay me.

If they are receiving Medical Advice it is at the Expense of the Parish?
Yes.

Are those Persons relieved by you in consequence of the Order of the Relieving Officer, or from Charity on your Part?
I thought it my Duty to attend them, because I had known them ever since I had been in the Parish to be Paupers.

Do you consider them to come within your Contract with the Guardians?
Yes.

Are those Persons attended by you in consequence of any verbal or written Order from the Overseer or Relieving Officer?
No.

You are in the habit, if you consider them Paupers, to attend them without any specific Order?
Yes, I do, in North Petherton.

With regard to the rest of your District?
With regard to the rest of the District I insist upon their bringing an Order.

By whom do you expect to be paid where you do not receive an Order?
To many perhaps, who are not decidedly Paupers, that we never think of entering in our Book, we give Advice.

Do you do it as private Charity?
I know that they never can pay.

You have a different Rule with respect to the Parish of North Petherton and the other Parishes in the District?
I did at first, in Petherton, insist upon an Order.

Now you attend Persons whom you consider Paupers without any Order?
Yes.

That is done at your Loss?
I do not consider it any Loss, for I should never be paid otherwise.

Mr. H. N. Tilsley.

Do you consider them to come within your Contract with the Guardians?
Yes, I do.

It is a usual Practice, in Cases of Paupers that are ill, to have a written Order from the Relieving Officer?
It is usual.

In your District, when a Pauper is entitled according to the Rules of the Board to receive Medical Relief, he first obtains an Order from the Relieving Officer?
At first I did insist upon it for a little Time, but I gave it up afterwards, because they had to go sometimes a great Distance to the Overseer for an Order.

Do you mean that those Cases that you are now mentioning, which you say you attend and think it your Duty to attend, could have obtained an Order from the Relieving Officer if they had gone to him?
Yes, they could.

Do you mean to say that you attend others who do not come within the Rule by which Relief is administered in the District?
No; those whom I should consider could not get an Order I should not attend.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Mr. R. B. Ruddock.

Mr. RICHARD BEADON RUDDOCK is called in, and examined as follows:

YOU are a Surgeon?
Yes.

Where do you live?
At Nether Stowey.

Is that in the Bridgwater Union?
It is.

In the Year beginning June 1836 and ending June 1837 had you the Charge of any Medical Districts of that Union?
I had.

Of what?
I had the Nether Stowey District.

What was the Population of it?
I cannot state; it was under 2,000.

1,808?
I think it was.

What was your Salary?
25l.

How long have you been settled at Stowey?
I settled in Stowey when I took the District.

Had you been settled in any other District?
I had not.

Where had you been an Apprentice?
I was apprenticed at Yatton in the Neighbourhood of Bristol.

You were a Stranger at Bridgwater?
My Father lived in the Neighbourhood, within Five Miles of Nether Stowey.

Was he a Surgeon?
He was a Clergyman.

Were there any other Candidates for that District when you took it?
There were not.

Mr. R. B. Ruddock.

When you had taken it where did you reside?
At Nether Stowey; I entered into Partnership with an old Medical Man there.

Who was he?
Mr. Henry Francis King.

Is he there now?
He is.

And you are still his Partner?
I am.

Your Salary was *25l.*, you say?
It was.

What Distances had you to go in that District?
The greatest Distance I should think was Five Miles.

In consequence of your becoming Mr. King's Partner and taking this District were there any more Horses kept by Mr. King and you than Mr. King had previously kept?
Mr. King was in the habit of keeping only One Horse, and when I lived at Stowey I kept One Horse also, which made Two Horses.

If you had not taken that District would it have been necessary for you to have kept One Horse?
I think One Horse would have done.

Do you mean to say that you and Mr. King were put to the Expense of One Horse which you would not otherwise have been put to?
I cannot of course say whether I should not otherwise have kept it.

Would the Salary of *25l.* have kept that Horse?
No, certainly not.

Have you any Notion what it cost you in the prime Cost of Drugs for the Pauper Patients during that Year?
I cannot say for certain.

With your Salary of *25l.* a Year do you apprehend that you had any Remuneration for your Trouble, after covering your Expenses?
Certainly not.

What induced you then to take it at that Rate?
I wished to settle in the Neighbourhood where my Family were known. I had been at home for a Twelvemonth doing nothing, therefore I was anxious to be doing something.

You wished to get into Practice?
I did wish to get into Practice.

You thought it would lead to Practice?
No, I did not think it would lead to Practice, for my Partner had attended these Parishes before the Formation of the Union.

These same Parishes?
Yes.

What had he got for attending them before the Union?
I think the Salary was *12l.* for Nether Stowey, and *7l.* for Asholt, and *7l.* for Over Stovey, and *5l.* for Fiddington. I will not be sure on that Subject, but I think that was the Salary fixed, and he was paid for Midwifery Cases and Casualties in addition.

What was he paid for Midwifery Cases?
A Guinea a Case.

What do you mean by Casualties?
Surgical Cases.

You were to be paid separately for Midwifery Cases?
I was.

Mr. R B. Ruddock.

How much?
10*s.* a Case.

In the following Year you took this Nether Stowey District again, did you not?
I did; there were some other Parishes added.

Were Stowey and Cannington kept together?
They were.

And given to you at the same Time?
At the same Time; and I was appointed to the whole of the District with the Understanding from the Board that Mr. Poole, who held the Cannington District the former Year, should take that the Second Year.

That was understood between you and Mr. Poole?
It was.

You took the Stowey District upon that Occasion, with a Population of 3,226, for a Salary of 25*l.*?
When the Two Districts were thrown together the Salary was made 80*l.* for the Two, which gave me 48*l.*, Mr. Poole 32*l.*; the Salary of 45*l.* was fixed in the first place, the Two Districts were thrown together, and 5*l.* were added.

When were you appointed?
I forget the Day.

14th of July?
I think that was the Day, but I cannot speak confidently.

You took the Two Districts at 80*l.*, and let Mr. Poole have the Cannington District?
That was temporary; the Board divided the Districts afterwards.

Who settled the Salaries?
Mr. Poole and I settled. I was paid in the Proportion of Three Fifths, and Mr. Poole Two Fifths, and the 5*l.* was divided in the same Proportion.

Have you taken the District again?
I have.

What is your Salary to be next Year?
48*l.*

The same as you took it for before?
Yes.

And you have much more Business thrown upon you in consequence of the Addition to the District?
There is a considerable deal more.

Do you apprehend that it is better paid now than it was in 1836 and 1837?
The Salary is increased, but I do not consider it a fair Remuneration now.

Then if that is the Case why did you continue, having taken it for a Year by way of Experiment and that Year having been completed?
I was a young Man just settled there, and of course it would have been extremely unpleasant for me if another Medical Man had come there and taken the District.

Then it was from a Fear of the Intrusion of some one else, and not for the Sake of Profit, that you again took the District?
Yes, it was.

Had you any Conversation, during the First Year of your taking the District with any of the Guardians privately, or with the Board, with respect to the Remuneration being less than it ought to be?
If I recollect right we had some Conversation with the Chairman.

What was that Conversation?
He said that the First Year was a Year of Probation, and that neither Party knew much about the Matter. I do not know that those were the very Words, but

Mr. R. B. Ruddock. but that in the Second Year, if we were not satisfied, our Salaries would be raised.

Can you recollect upon what Occasion it was that that Conversation passed between you and the Chairman?
I cannot.

Were there more People present than yourself and the Chairman?
If I recollect right it was in the Presence of the Board of Guardians, and other Medical Men, besides myself.

What Day was that?
I do not know.

Can you tell what Month it was?
I should suppose it was when we were appointed in the first place; I cannot speak to the Time.

But your Impression is that it was in the Presence of the Board?
Yes.

Try to recollect whether it was when you were first appointed or not?
I really cannot remember when it was.

What other of the Medical Persons besides yourself remonstrated upon the Subject of these Salaries?
The Impression upon my Mind is that it took place before the Board of Guardians, when the other Medical Men were present.

Before you were appointed, or after?
If I remember right we did not meet the Board before we were appointed.

Then it must have been after you were appointed?
I cannot speak confidently that it was.

You must recollect whether it was previous to your First Appointment, or previous to your Second Appointment; was it when you were called in in 1837 to consider about the new Division of the Districts?
That was at the End of the First Year; it was not then; my Impression is that it was at the Beginning of the First Year.

Your Impression is that it was in the Presence of the Board of Guardians?
It is.

And upon a Remonstrance upon your Part of the Smallness of the Salaries?
Yes.

Then at the End of the First Year you signed a Paper directed to the Chairman of the Board of Guardians of the Bridgwater Union, complaining of your Salaries for the preceding Year?
I did.

Who brought you that Paper to sign?
I cannot speak confidently on that Subject.

Did you at that Time belong to an Association called "The Bridgwater Medical Association"?
I became a Member about that Time, but I forget when it was.

Had you ever attended a Meeting of the Association before you signed that Paper?
I think not.

Can you recollect whether you became a Member of that Association before or after you signed that Paper?
Really I cannot remember when it was.

Do you remember any Resolution or Direction of that Medical Association recommending or calling upon any Surgeons who had taken the Districts to sign such a Paper?
Certainly not.

Do you apprehend that it was done of your own free Will, or was it done by the Recommendation of other Persons?
By our own free Will.

That Paper was also accompanied by certain Recommendations on the Part of other Medical Gentlemen?
It was.

Are they Members of the Association?
I believe they are now, but I forget what Medical Gentlemen signed it.

Mr. Jonathan Toogood, Mr. Henry Axford, Mr. James Hewiland, Mr. E. A. Stradling, Mr. J. G. Toogood, Mr. J. C. Parker, Mr. J. Gill, Mr.T. J. Poole, Mr. Robert Baker?
I believe the greater Proportion of those are Members of the Association.

Do you know whether they were at that Time?
I do not.

Do you know the Object of their signing such a Paper as that?
I do not.

You do not know what it was that occasioned their Signatures?
I do not.

Do you know when you signed the Paper whether this Paper signed by those other Persons was shown to you?
I cannot state whether it was or not.

Was it suggested to you that that Paper having been signed by the Seniors in your Profession you ought to sign the other Paper?
Certainly not.

Then in point of fact you did not sign the Paper in consequence of seeing the Names of those Persons who were older in the Profession than yourself?
Certainly not.

Had you not seen the Names of Toogood and Hewiland and the other attached to the Postscript?
I cannot say whether I had or not at the Time I signed it.

Were you aware of their having signed it?
I cannot speak confidently upon that Subject.

You were ignorant of the Existence of such a Postscript?
I forget whether it was shown to me.

Had you heard of it?
I heard of it then or afterwards.

Is that your Signature? (*The original Letter being shown to the Witness.*)
Yes.

If any thing had been written at that Time upon that Side you must have seen it?
Of course I must have seen it.

Do you recollect whether you did see it or not?
I do not remember whether it was there or not.

Are the Committee to understand from you that the Addition of those Names to that Recommendation was not the Motive which induced you to sign that Paper?
My Motive to sign the Paper was because my Salary was not sufficiently high.

In short for the Reasons stated in the Letter which you signed?
Yes.

And the Authorities quoted here did not lead you to express that Opinion?
No.

Mr. R. B. Ruddock.

When you were aware that those Nine other Medical Gentlemen had signed it you probably entertained better Hopes that you might succeed in getting a larger Salary when your Letter was sanctioned by the principal Medical Men in Bridgwater?
I forget what was my Opinion at the Time.

Did you not think that the unanimous Opinion of the Medical Men in Bridgwater would give you a better Hope of succeeding?
I should think such a Paper coming from the old established Medical Men would induce the Board to raise the Salaries, certainly.

Those old Practitioners not being likely to apply themselves with a view to be appointed by the Guardians?
I believe none of them applied.

What Day was it that you took the Cannington and Stowey Districts; was it the first Day that it was advertised for, the 15th of June?
No, not on that Day; the 14th of July, I think.

Where did you sign that Letter?
If I remember right I signed it at my own House.

Did you know that it was coming before it came?
I do not think I did; I cannot speak confidently.

Where is your own House?
At Nether Stowey.

Do you know who brought it to you?
No, I do not.

Did any Message come with it?
Really I forget whether there was any Message with it or not.

Do you know how many Names were to it; were all the Places for Names filled up before you signed it?
I signed next to the one above it.

You do not know whether you knew of its coming beforehand?
I do not.

Had you heard of such a Letter?
I have no Doubt that I was aware that the Letter was to be written to the Board of Guardians; I cannot speak confidently upon that.

Who suggested it in the first instance?
I do not know who suggested it.

Do you recollect from whom you had heard that there was such a Letter to be written to the Board?
I do not.

Was it Mr. Abraham King?
I do not know who it was.

Was it Mr. Parker?
I do not know whether it was he or not. I cannot speak positively as to who sent me the Letter.

Mr. Jonathan Toogood?
I do not know who it was.

You do not know who suggested it?
No, I do not.

What then induced you to expect that Letter to be sent?
I am not exactly confident that I expected the Letter. I am not quite sure upon that Point.

Did you read it before you signed it?
I did.

What Names were attached to it when you signed it?
There were Two or Three Names to it, the Names that appear to be above mine now.

And you signed it without seeing the Paper on the other Side?
I do not know.

You do not know whether you read the Postscript?
I forget whether it was there or not.

Are you aware whether Mr. Tilsley had signed before you signed, or was there a Blank left for his Name?
Certainly not; no Blank.

Do you think he had signed?
If his Signature is above mine I have no Doubt he had.

Look at the Original?
[The Witness examines the Original.]
I think I am confident that those Three Names, Mr. King's, Mr. Tilsley's, and Mr. Evered Poole's, were signed before I signed mine.

You are confident there was not a Blank left there for Mr. Tilsley's Name?
I am not aware that there was a Blank left.

Do you think the Postscript could have been written upon that Page without your seeing it?
Certainly not; if it was there I must have seen it, but I cannot say whether it was there or not.

You are a Son of the Reverend Mr. Ruddock?
I am.

It was not he who suggested this Letter?
Certainly not.

There was a Second Letter, upon the 6th of June, that you signed; that was a much longer Letter?
There was a Letter after this; I forget the Date.

Did you read that before you signed it?
I did.

When that was brought to you to sign you would perceive that you, who signed it, stated that you had heard vague Reports of your being charged with uncandid and improper Conduct; what were those Reports that you had heard?
I forget what they were.

Some one had told you that there were such Reports, and what those Reports were?
I remember hearing that there were such Reports.

What were they that seemed to affect you all so much as to induce you to sign the Second Letter; was it any Expression that had been used at any Meeting of the Board of Guardians?
I think it was.

Cannot you tell the Committee what it was that was stated to have been said at the Board of Guardians?
I cannot.

Who told you of those Charges having been made?
If I remember right I heard it at Bridgwater after the Meeting of the Board of Guardians; but I forget who told me of it; there were Medical Men there and Members of the Board of Guardians as well.

There were several of the Medical Men present?
Yes.

Mr. R. B. Ruddock.

Where was that?
There was no Meeting.

Where were you assembled?
On the Cornhill at Bridgwater.

In the open Street?
Yes.

Was that near where the Board of Guardians met?
Not very far from it.

Was it after the breaking up of the Board?
I do not know whether it was after the breaking up of the Board, or while the Board was sitting.

What Time of the Day was it?
I think in the Afternoon.

How late?
Perhaps Five o'Clock.

You do not know whether the Board had broken up at that Time?
No.

You do not know who came from the Board and mentioned what had passed?
I do not.

Are you sure you do not?
I am.

You remember making an Offer to attend the Poor gratis till some other Arrangement could be made; that was not accepted?
It was not.

And you were directed to attend the Poor as private Patients, and to charge accordingly?
Yes.

You attended the Poor in that Way?
Yes.

What was the Amount of your Bill for so doing?
About 35*l.* or 36*l.*; I forget the exact Sum.

That was considerably more than you received as Salary for the whole Year?
Yes.

Was your Bill demurred to?
It was.

What became of that Bill; has it ever been paid?
Part of it.

How much has been paid; was it settled by Reference?
It was settled by the Board after Mr. Poole's Trial.

Did they make the same Deductions from all the Bills?
Mine was paid in the same Proportion as Mr. Poole's.

Three Quarters?
Yes; I think it was.

You made a Tender afterwards of your Services to the Board, and in that Tender you offered to give up the Amount of your Bill in case you were appointed to your District?
Yes.

But you made an Offer to the Board, that if they would give you a certain Sum your Bill should be cancelled?
Yes.

You were elected to this District; when was that?
I think it was about the 14th of July.

Were all the Medical Gentlemen that had signed these Papers present in Attendance at the Board in a Room by yourselves?
I believe we were; but as to all being there I cannot speak positively.

The major Part of them?
Yes.

When you were proposed were you told any thing by the Board at the Time with respect to any Division that had taken place upon your Election, or any Proceedings at that Time?
No.

You knew nothing of what had passed in the Board of Guardians with respect to your Election?
No; I was called into the Room, and appointed to the District.

That is all you knew about it?
I understood there was a Division.

What was that Division?
I think there was a Majority of One against me, if I remember right.

There was another Candidate elected in your Room?
Yes.

How came he not to hold that Appointment?
I do not know.

When did he resign it?
After the Meeting.

Before you had all left the Place?
No; I was in Bridgwater at the Time when he resigned it.

Then they elected you?
Yes.

And informed you of it?
Yes.

And you were allowed to divide it with Mr. Poole?
Yes.

They did not think it necessary to call upon you to give up your Bill, but paid you Three Fourths of it. You had offered to give up your Bill upon certain Terms; what were those Terms?
4*d.* or 4½*d.* a Head; I think those were the Terms.

Supposing you had taken the District at 4*d.* a Head, what Difference would there have been between your present Salary and the Amount of the Sum that 4*d.* a Head would have come to?
I think that 4*d.* a Head would bring it to 62*l.* or 63*l.*

For the Cannington and Stowey Districts?
No, for the Stowey only; but I forget what it would be at 4*d.* a Head.

Then you took it on for another Year till the 24th of June?
Yes.

If it was so much below your Offer of 4*d.* a Head how came you to continue your Services now at that Rate?
A Medical Man in the Country has hardly any Alternative; he must either take his District, or if he allows another Medical Man to come in it is impossible to say, when that Medical Man comes in, how much of my private Practice he may take away.

That Motive induces you to take the District now?
Yes.

Not on account of any Emolument that arises from it?
No.

Mr. R. B. Ruddock.

Perhaps you think the fair Emolument would have been to allow you to charge at the same Rate for the Year as you charged for the Three Weeks?
If we were to take them as private Patients.

Then you think you would receive a fair Emolument for the District?
Yes.

Do you mean to say that nothing less than that would be a fair Emolument to you?
I do not mean to say that.

Do you know whether in your Country it is at all the Practice for the Medical Men to contract with Families for common Attendance upon them?
I understand that Mr. King of Bridgwater does so.

Do you know whether in other Parts they do the same Thing?
No. I will not speak confidently, but I have some Idea that Mr. John Poole of Bridgwater has done so; but I will not speak confidently upon that Point.

In such Cases the Contract made with you is upon lower Terms than you charge Persons whom you visit casually?
I never have made any such Contract myself.

Have you heard the Nature of those Contracts?
Yes, I have.

Is the Nature of those Contracts that the Medical Man contracts for a less Sum than would be due to him if he visited the Patients, and charged for every Visit and for every Medicine that he gave?
It is less.

During those Three Weeks for which you made out your Bill was your District sickly or not?
It was more sickly than usual.

You signed a Letter stating that there were some Reports; cannot you bring to your Memory what the Nature of those Reports was?
If I remember right I heard the Term Assassin applied.

To what?
To the Medical Men.

They said they killed their Patients; is that what you mean?
I do not know what they meant when they applied the Word Assassin.

How had the Word Assassin any reference to the Medical Gentlemen?
If I remember right we were considered similar to Assassins.

Upon what Account?
I do not know; I did not hear.

Did you inquire what it meant?
No.

Do you know who applied that Term?
I do not; I cannot speak positively.

Who told you that you had been called Assassins?
I do not know.

Did you hear that People had said that the Medical Men in that Part of the Country had met together, and combined to make the Guardians give them as much as the Medical Men thought fit; was that one of the Reports?
It was, I believe.

Was there any Foundation at all for that Report?
We did not mean to make the Board of Guardians give what we thought fit.

But you met to make an Agreement among yourselves not to serve unless you got what you thought right?
The Object of our Meeting was not out of Opposition to the Board of Guardians, it was to maintain the Respectability of the Profession.

That

That is to increase the Amount of the Salaries?
To increase the Salaries to what we considered a fair and proper Remuneration.

Therefore other Persons, who were not aware of your Motives, chose to say that that was a Combination to make the Board of Guardians give the Price that you asked?
I believe they did.

Was it not in fact a Combination to make the Board of Guardians give what you asked?
I do not consider it a Combination.

It was not a Combination, but a Plan to make the Board of Guardians give what you asked?
Our Object in meeting was to get a proper Remuneration for our Services.

Had you asked any particular Sum at the Time when the First Letter was written?
I do not think we had.

Then supposing it to have been an Attempt to control the Guardians with respect to the Salaries, was it merely a Declaration upon your Part that you would not serve unless you were properly remunerated, or was it insisting upon any particular Sum as the Amount which you thought you ought to receive?
We offered a Sum.

What Sum?
Our Tender stated if I recollect right.

Had you tendered before that?
If I recollect right we had not tendered before the Second Letter.

Then you had not tendered at the Date of the First Letter?
No.

That Letter was written in consequence of the Advertisement of the 21st of May?
Yes, I believe it was; I do not remember Dates.

Had you at that Time fixed any Sum which you thought would be a Remuneration for your Services, or did your Letter refer merely to a proper Remuneration?
Yes; I had not fixed any Sum in my own Mind.

And you were prepared to discuss with the Board the proper Remuneration?
Yes.

Had you not thought among yourselves what would be the proper Remuneration?
Decidedly not.

You had not decided that 4*d.* or 4½*d.* per Head would be the proper Remuneration?
I do not think we had till the last Letter was written.

Were you led to expect that a greater Remuneration would be given you in the Second Year than the First Year?
Yes.

Were you influenced in the Course of the Proceedings which you adopted by any Feeling upon your Part that there was an Indisposition on the Part of the Board to fulfil the implied Contract which they had entered into to give you increased Salaries?
Yes.

Had you been led to understand by general Rumour, or by any thing that fell from any of the Gentlemen composing the Board, that it was not their Intention to give you any increased Salary?
I expected that the Salary would have been raised, and I heard nothing to the contrary.

Mr. R. B. Ruddock.

Are you not aware that the Board of Guardians is a fluctuating Body, that the same Members do not compose the Board in one Year and the next Year?
I am aware of that.

At any Meeting did you decide that you would not do the Duty unless the Sum was raised; was there an Agreement among yourselves that none of you would take the Tenders unless they were increased?
I believe there was.

Do you see any Difference between the Journeymen Tailors in London meeting and refusing to work at less than 15*s.* per Week, and the Medical Men of the Bridgwater Water Union meeting together and saying that they will not undertake the Care of the Poor unless their Salaries are increased?
I consider that the Journeymen Tailors have One Object in view, and I consider that the Medical Men had Two Objects in view; I consider the Object of the Journeymen Tailors is to be repaid for their Trouble, and I consider the Object of the Medical Men is to be repaid for their Trouble and also to maintain their Respectability in Life.

Should you not think that the Journeymen Tailors have a Right to demand what they think a Remuneration for their Trouble?
I cannot give an Opinion upon that Subject.

Has he not a Right to ask what he thinks his Labour is worth?
Certainly.

Therefore you have a Right to ask what you think your Labour is worth?
Yes.

And you estimate your Labour according to your Education and the Profession in which you are serving?
Yes.

Did any Gentleman who met and agreed break his Faith with the Gentlemen of the Profession, and did he tender and accept a District at a lower Rate than that which had been settled by you before?
I believe none of the Medical Men broke their Faith; we all did tender, I believe.

Have none of you maintained that Resolution; was there not an Agreement that you would not take a District?
I have maintained my Resolution; I consider there was no Agreement till after the Second Letter.

Was there any Agreement that you would not take the Situation unless you were better remunerated?
Yes.

Did every Gentleman comply with that?
We took our Districts at a less Sum than the 4*d.* or 4½*d.* per Head.

There was a Tender made in the meantime?
When I wrote the Tender offering to do it at 4*d.* then I was appointed.

Was there any Coolness shown to you by any of the Medical Profession in consequence of your having taken the District at a less Sum than you had tendered to do?
Not that I am aware of.

Had you the Sanction of the Committee of the Association for accepting the Districts upon the Terms upon which you afterwards took them; was there a Committee of the Association?
If I remember rightly Mr. Toogood, Mr. Haviland, and Mr. Axford were appointed the Committee; we had their Sanction for what we did.

Did they fix any precise Sum, and no less a Sum for the District that you were to take possession of?
I think there was a Sum fixed.

Mr. R. B. Ruddock.

What was it?
4*d.* or 4½*d.* per Head.

Then it was in consequence of that you made the Tender?
It was.

What was it that induced you and others to agree upon 4*d.* a Head?
Because I thought it would be a fair Remuneration.

That was never fixed till after you had written that Letter on the 2d of June?
I should say certainly not.

You were at the Meeting of the Association when this Resolution was come to: "That this Meeting pledges itself not to accept any Appointment under the Poor Law Amendment Act without the Sanction of the Committee"?
I believe I was at that Meeting.

Had you the Sanction of the Committee for accepting the Appointment you did accept?
I forget whether any thing passed between me and the Committee before I was appointed.

You having come to that Resolution you forget whether any thing passed with the Committee?
I forget whether any thing passed; I will not speak confidently upon that.

You agreed to that Resolution?
I did.

And you do not know that you had the Sanction of the Committee for your Appointment?
I do not think I had the Sanction of the Committee.

Has any thing passed since between you and the Committee?
I do not think there has.

You did not adhere to that Resolution; you did not observe the Undertaking that you had entered into?
We took the Districts at a Salary fixed, supposing that our Bills would have been paid; and that would have made the Salaries equal to 4*d.* or 4½*d.* per Head, whichever it was.

Was that so understood by the Committee appointed at the Meeting; did you adhere to that Resolution?
I have no Doubt that we had the Sanction of the Committee.

Are you not sure whether you had or had not?
We had the Sanction of the Committee, I believe; and I considered that in undertaking to attend the District with the Salary which the Board fixed upon, and upon the Supposition that our Bills were to be paid, we were undertaking to do that which we had agreed to do.

That was sanctioned by the Committee, was it?
I believe it was.

Did you not yourself move the Resolution, "That this Meeting will not recognise or hold Intercourse with any Medical Practitioner who dishonours the Profession by acting in opposition to the foregoing Resolutions;" that is the Resolution to which you are now referring?
Yes.

Do not you know whether you have adhered to that Resolution, which was made and confirmed by a Resolution on your own Motion?
I believe we had the Sanction of the Committee.

Are you not sure?
I would not swear it.

You moved the Resolution, "That this Meeting will not recognise or hold Intercourse with any Medical Practitioner who dishonours the Profession by acting

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acting in opposition to the foregoing Resolutions;" One of the Resolutions being, "That this Meeting pledges itself not to accept any Appointment under the Poor Law Amendment Act without the Sanction of the Committee." Do not you know whether you had the Sanction of the Committee?

I do not.

Will you not undertake to say?

I will not swear.

Then you will not undertake to swear that you have not dishonoured the Profession; do you consider yourself to have dishonoured the Profession by taking charge of that District?

I think I have not dishonoured the Profession, because I considered that the Salary that the Board fixed, and our Bills, would be equal to the Tender that we had offered.

Do you know whether you have the Sanction of the Committee, or not, for so thinking?

I have said that I cannot be positive upon that Point.

And you moved "That this Meeting will not recognise or hold Intercourse with any Medical Practitioner who dishonours the Profession by acting in opposition to the foregoing Resolutions;" you moved that Resolution?

I did.

Would any thing but the Sanction of the Committee have released you from that Pledge?

No, I should think not.

After that Resolution was entered into by the Meeting did any Conversation amongst the Medical Gentlemen pass to this Extent, that you were prepared to make some Sacrifice upon your Part if the Board of Guardians were ready to make some Sacrifice on theirs; in other Words, that you were prepared to give up the Resolution that you would not take the Medical Attendance on such and such a Sum, but that you would take a smaller Sum if it would lead to a Compromise between the Parties: was there any Meeting among you, or did any thing take place to that Effect, as you seem not to have acted up to the Resolutions in taking a smaller Sum?

But I considered that the Salary which was fixed by the Board and the Amount of our Bills were equal to the Salary which we had fixed.

When you had done all that you could to fix the Salary, did you consider that you had done all that was creditable to yourself, so that none of those with whom you acted could complain afterwards of it?

I do not consider that I have done any thing to dishonour those Resolutions.

By that 4th Resolution did you not feel yourself bound not to accept any Appointment under the Poor Law Amendment Act without the Sanction of the Committee?

I did.

Did you not move the subsequent Resolution, "That this Meeting will not recognise or hold Intercourse with any Medical Practitioner who dishonours the Profession by acting in opposition to the foregoing Resolutions"?

Yes.

Do you consider that accepting any Appointment under the new Poor Law Act without the Sanction of the Committee is contrary to the Resolutions?

Yes.

That being laid down, did you obtain that Sanction? or, do you conceive that the Result of your own Calculation of the annual Stipend for which you had agreed, together with the Payment of some anterior, might excuse you from the pre-requisite of obtaining the Sanction of the Committee?

I considered that when I wrote to the Board of Guardians offering to give up my Bill it was at the Meeting of the Committee, and that I had the Sanction of the Committee for so doing.

Mr. R. E. Ruddock.

Do you believe that any One of the Committee think you have degraded yourself, or have behaved dishonourably to them, if you have taken what is something better than 3½*d.* a Head, when you tried in vain to get 4*d.*?
I think that the Salary which I had for the last Twelvemonth, with my Bill, would be a fair Remuneration for the Twelvemonth's Services.

You have taken the District again?
I was appointed.

Have you accepted it?
Yes.

Upon what Terms?
On the same Terms as last Year.

That is 80*l.* for the Two Districts between you and Mr. Poole?
The District is divided.

Which District have you?
The Stowey District.

What do you receive for that?
£48.

Do you consider that a fair Remuneration?
Certainly not.

Does that Association continue?
It does.

Have you had the Sanction of the Committee for accepting that?
I have not.

Have you ever asked for it?
I have not.

Is the Committee now in existence?
I do not know whether it is or not; we have not met for many Months.

The Association is in existence?
Yes.

Do you consider that the Association has come to an End, that the Body from which the Resolutions emanated has ceased, and therefore that they are not binding?
I did not consider them to last for ever.

How long were they to last?
I do not know; I have never thought of that.

You do not consider that you are bound by them now?
No, I think not

How long did you act upon those Resolutions?
I do not know how long I acted upon them.

Have you acted upon them to a certain Extent?
Yes.

You did act upon them to a certain Extent in the Case of Mr. Young, by refusing to have any Intercourse with him immediately upon his Acceptance of the Office?
I do not know that I refused to hold any Intercourse with him.

Some of the Members of the Medical Association did, did they not?
Not that I am aware of.

In the Case of Mr. Ward did they not?
I believe they did.

Have you had Occasion to be called upon to meet Mr. Ward?
I have.

Did you meet him?
I did.

Mr. R. B. Ruddock.

How often?
Once.

Did you make any Objection to meeting him?
I did at first, but on consideration I felt that I could not disobey the Order of the Board; I thought I was obliged to meet him.

Did the Board order you to meet Mr. Ward?
The Clerk of the Board wrote to me, saying that Mr. Ward would be at Stowey on the following Day, and desiring me to meet him; I do not remember the exact Terms of the Letter.

You did so?
Yes.

Did you ever meet him on any other Occasion?
No.

Would you meet him with a private Patient?
I do not think I should.

Do you think yourself bound to the other Medical Men, or is it any private Feeling of your own?
I have no private Feeling of Hostility towards Mr. Ward.

Then it is from a Feeling that you are bound to the other Medical Men of the District not to meet Mr. Ward; is that the Reason?
Yes.

When you were elected upon the 14th of July to the District were you called in to the Board and informed of the Election?
Yes.

Was there any thing said upon the Occasion; such as asking you whether you would consent to meet this Gentleman, and whether you had been the Mover of this Resolution which has been spoken of?
Nothing was said upon the Subject.

Had you a Woman of the Name of Charlotte Allen under your Care, a single Woman with a Child?
I had; she had not a Child at that Time; she was pregnant when I was called upon to attend her.

That continued for some Time, did it not?
It did.

To the 19th of June?
I cannot say the Day from Memory.

How long did you continue, of your own Accord, your Attendance upon that Woman?
I continued it as long as I thought necessary.

You discontinued it upon your own Judgment?
Yes.

She was afterwards brought to Bed, was she not?
She was, but I attended her after her Name appears in the Book; previous to her Confinement the Woman did not require Medicine; she was not very ill, and I attended her.

As a private Patient?
I had no Order from the Board; I had no Order from the Relieving Officer to attend her; her Name was not inserted in the Book.

When she was brought to Bed did you attend her?
No.

When was it that you attended her?
I will not be positive, for I have nothing about me by which I can tell; but if I remember right, the first Day I attended her was the 5th of June.

Mr. R. B. Ruddock.

Who had attended her in her Labour?
I was told that Kitty Walker had attended her.

Was that a Midwife?
Yes.

Subsequently to that was any Application made to you to attend her?
Yes; on the Fourth or Fifth Day after she was confined.

In what State did you find her?
Very dangerously ill, labouring under what we call Puerperal Fever.

Was she hysterical?
I saw no hysterical Symptoms about her then.

Was she very weak?
She was very weak.

Did she suffer in any Way from any improper Proceeding in delivering her?
She had a lacerated Perinæum, and Prolapsus Uteri.

What do you call Hysteritis Simplex?
Hysteritis Simplex is Inflammation of the Womb.

That was what you found her labouring under when you visited her?
It was.

Did you examine her Person?
I examined her on the following Morning.

What Time of the Day was it that you were sent for?
I believe between Nine and Ten o'Clock at Night.

How long after her Confinement?
I cannot tell. I have Papers in Town which will tell me the Day of the Month; it was the Fourth or Fifth Day after.

Are the Times stated correctly in this Affidavit which is signed by Mr. Waites?
I have looked it over, but I forget the Dates; I cannot say whether it is correct or not.

You say that you were called upon at Ten o'Clock at Night; did you go that Night?
I did; I went immediately; at least I went that Night.

And you found her in the State that you have described?
Yes.

What did you do then?
I ordered her some Medicine, and the same Evening I went to see her again, and took my Partner with me.

How long did she remain in that State that you have described?
From Memory I cannot say.

This was after you had taken the District?
No; during this Time I was attending her as a private Patient.

You were charging by Bill at the Time?
Yes.

Had you an Order from the Relieving Officer to go to visit her?
Yes.

Did your Partner also examine her Person to ascertain what was the Matter with her?
Neither of us examined her that Night.

But when you did examine her were you alone, or was your Partner with you?
I was alone.

Mr R. B. Ruddock.

Did your Partner at any Time examine her Person?
So far as this, he examined her a few Days afterwards, the Date I forget. He was sent for in a great Hurry, the Person saying that something was the Matter with her; he went out to see her; this I had from him, and I believe I am correct in what I say, and he said he found a Prolapsus of the Uterus.

When you examined her before had you found that?
The Womb was down when I examined her.

Did he speak of the Laceration of the Perinæum?
I forget whether he mentioned it or not, but I have no Doubt that he did.

You saw the Midwife at the Time when you examined her?
I am not sure that the Midwife was there at that Time; I saw her there in the course of the Day.

Had you any Conversation with her about Charlotte Allen's Case?
She might have asked what I thought of her.

Did she ask you what you thought of her Management of the Case?
No; I do not believe she did.

State, as well as you can, what the precise Thing was that she did state to you, and what your Answer was?
I cannot recollect; probably she asked me what I thought of her, and my Answer probably was that she was very dangerously ill.

Did you ever say to the Midwife that there was no Fault of hers in the Case?
I do not believe I did.

If she has said so is that the Truth or not? Cannot you remember whether you did say so or not?
No, I cannot.

Was it her Fault?
I cannot speak upon that.

Is it your Opinion that more Care or greater Skill would have saved this Woman from that Prolapsus or the Laceration of the Perinæum?
Had she been attended by a Medical Man there would have been less Chance of that occurring; the general Opinion among Medical Men is that he would have prevented this occurring.

And so can a Midwife, can she not, if she knows her Business?
Yes, of course she may.

Was there any thing said to her by Mr. King, your Partner, in your Presence?
Not that I remember.

Did he say that it was no Fault of hers, for that the same Thing had happened after you and after himself upon other Occasions?
I heard him say that the same Case had occurred to him; whether she was present or not I do not know.

Was that to you that he said it, or to her?
I heard him say that; I do not know whom he spoke to.

What became of Charlotte Allen; is she well?
I have been told she is in the Bridgwater Workhouse.

Have you seen her lately?
About Six Weeks since.

What was her State then?
Her general Health was better.

Is she in a State "intolerably offensive" to those around her?
She is subject to Discharge; she told me at that Time that she was so.

Mr. R. B. Ruddock.

Do you mean to say that when you saw her so short a Time since she was then offensive?
I do not know that she was at that Time, but she said she was subject to Discharge.

Is it then because she is subject to Discharge, that you suppose that she could not be subject to such a Thing without being offensive, or is it that you know that as a Fact?
I knew that as a Fact at the Time I was attending her.

You do not know her present State?
No.

Was this her first Child, do you happen to know?
I believe it was; I am not confident about that.

She is Thirty-one Years of Age?
Yes, about that, I believe.

Is not that rather a late Period of Life for the first Birth of a Child to take place, and may it not therefore be attended with Difficulty occasionally?
It may perhaps be more likely to occur at that Age.

You said that you had met Mr. Ward once; was not that when he came to visit this Charlotte Allen?
It was.

When was that?
I forget when it was; I should suppose it was Three Months ago.

When you first attended Charlotte Allen was it for any Malady connected with her Pregnancy?
At that Time she was labouring under chronic Inflammation of the Liver.

That was not at all connected with her Pregnancy?
I should give it as my Opinion that it was increased by her Pregnancy.

You attended her by Order of the Relieving Officer?
I did.

And you continued to attend her for some Time?
Yes.

Why did you discontinue your Attendance?
Because she was better.

You considered that she did not need your Attendance any longer?
No.

Was there any thing in the Nature of her Case which induced you to believe that it would be a difficult Labour?
From the violent Symptoms the Woman had had I thought it might be a difficult Labour.

How far had she gone in her Pregnancy?
I think she was in the Ninth Month.

She was just on the Eve of her Delivery?
It was about that Time.

That was in June 1837?
Yes.

Where did she live?
At Stowey.

Did she continue after this Delivery very ill for a long Time?
She did.

Did she continue to live at her own House?
Yes, at the Place where she was delivered.

Was she able to move?
She was confined to her Bed for many Weeks.

Mr. R. B. Ruddock.

Do you recollect how many Weeks?
No, I cannot say.

Did she continue confined to her Bed till the Time of the Visit made to her by Mr. Ward?
I think she got up for a few Days.

And then was she obliged to be confined to her Bed again?
After that she had another Illness; she was worse after that: it was not another Illness, because she did not get well; it was an Affection of the Liver with constitutional Irritation as well as Prolapsus.

She continued to have this Prolapsus?
I do not know whether she had Prolapsus, she suffered violent Pain when she attempted to rise.

When a Prolapsus occurs does it cure itself?
Not if the Woman is standing or walking about.

If she lies in Bed does it cure itself?
Yes.

Does the Womb get into its natural State again?
Yes, certainly it does, if she lies long enough.

What was the Complaint for which she was confined to her Bed when Mr. Ward visited her, and met you at the House?
It was the Affection of the Liver; the Uterus was affected also.

She was affected by the Two Complaints at the Time that you met Mr. Ward?
Yes.

Did you or Mr. Ward examine her?
Neither of us examined her.

Had she received any Relief from the Parish?
I was told so.

Do you know of any Order coming for her Removal into the Workhouse?
I remember her telling me one Day that the Relieving Officer had said she must be removed. I did not consider she was in a proper State to be removed, and I wrote to the Relieving Officer to say so.

Was she removed at that Time?
She was not.

What became of her?
She remained in the same House Two Months or Three Months, it may have been after that, and I visited her.

Did a fresh Order come for her to be removed?
I do not know whether a fresh Order was received; I understood that it was stated that she was to go into the Workhouse.

Where did she go?
To some Relation.

How?
In a Cart, I believe.

Did it draw up to her Door?
I believe it did.

How far had she to go?
About Five Miles.

Up to this Time, had she been able to leave her Bed, with the Exception of the few Days you have mentioned just now?
She had not been able to sit up, I believe.

She went away in a Cart out of the Union?
Yes.

Mr. R. B. Ruddock.

Have you seen her since?
Yes; about Six Weeks ago.

Where was she then?
At the House of a Relation, Five Miles from Stowey.

Was that the Place that she went to in a Cart?
Yes.

How was she?
Her general Health was improved.

Was the Prolapsus Uteri just the same?
I believe the Uterus was in its proper Place.

And she was recovered?
I think she was quite recovered, as far as the Prolapsus was concerned.

How came you to see her?
I wished to see how she was going on.

What has become of her since?
I have been told that she has been removed into the Workhouse.

Did she go back to Stowey?
I have not heard that she did.

At the Time that you were attending upon this Woman do you remember meeting Mr. Waites, the Relieving Officer of the Bridgwater Union, and asking him who was to attend her in her lying-in?
Yes, I do.

What did he answer to that?
I think he said, "I do not know, but I suppose you will, Sir," or something of that Kind.

Did you apply to him for an Order to do so?
I did.

You and Mr. King your Partner had attended her some Days before that?
Yes.

What was his Answer when you applied for an Order?
I think he told me that he could not let me have one, that he must apply to the Board?

Did you give any Reason why you thought you ought to be employed to deliver her?
I told him that I thought the Attendance of a Medical Man would be necessary.

What made you tell him so in this Case, as a Midwife is in the habit of attending other Cases?
I conceived that it was necessary, because she was more liable to Accident, and that the Process of Labour would not be gone through in so natural a Way as if there had been no Illness with her.

And you had not sufficient Confidence in the Skill of the Midwife to trust her with the Case?
I do not know; I did not know any thing of her.

Then why, if you did not know the Midwife, did you object to her taking the Case?
Because I do not think the Midwives in the Country are ever sufficiently skilful to undertake difficult Cases.

Had you ever heard any thing to make you doubt the Skill of this particular Midwife?
I had not.

Or have you since?
I have since.

Mr. R. B. Ruddock.

Do you doubt her having been skilful on that Occasion?
I do not consider that she showed any Skill upon that Occasion.

Did Mr. Waites say that he could not give you an Order, but that he must apply to the Board?
He did.

Did any Order come to you to attend her?
No; I asked Mr. Waites if he had got an Order.

And the first Thing you heard of her was that you were sent for after her Delivery, and you found that she had a Laceration of the Perinæum and a Prolapsus Uteri?
Yes.

Did you examine Charlotte Allen as to what Part of the Birth it was under which she suffered the most?
I think I have asked her since, and she has stated that it was during the Time that the Child was born.

Did she state that she considered herself improperly or unskilfully treated then or during the After-birth?
She expressed to me her Dissatisfaction with the Way in which she had been treated.

Did she tell you at the Time that she had got out of Bed the next Day?
I do not know that she told me; she has told me since that she did.

Were you aware of that Circumstance at the Time that the Pamphlet published by the Medical Association was written?
I canot say.

Had she got out of Bed?
She had got out of Bed to make Water.

You are not aware that she got out of Bed for Three Days, and that the Nurse remonstrated with her?
She has since told me that she got out of Bed.

Would not that make a Difference?
It may have made a Difference, but I should suppose that the Generality of Women get up to make Water.

We have not the Fact with that Reservation?
She has told me herself that she only got up to make Water.

Would not the quitting her Bed at so early a Period have been sufficient to cause that?
I do not consider that it would, had she been in a proper State; I do not consider that the Fact of her getting out to make Water would have produced the Prolapsus.

But she not being in a proper State, would not that have been sufficient to cause it?
I consider that if she had gone through her Labour naturally she might have got up, and still no Danger have occurred.

As this appears to be a difficult Labour, does it not sufficiently explain the Prolapsus Uteri when you know that she got up and left her Bed?
I consider the getting up would not produce the Prolapsus; the Laceration of the Perinæum would render her more liable to the Prolapsus.

And that the Prolapsus may have been in consequence of getting up?
I do not consider that it was.

It may have been?
It is possible.

But, from the whole of the Case, is it your Opinion that the Woman was properly delivered?
My Opinion is that she was not.

Mr. R. B. Ruddock

And did you state to the Relieving Officer that it would be necessary to have a Medical Person to attend her?
I did.

And he said, "I cannot give you an Order, but will apply to the Board"?
Yes.

And he said she had been ill for some Time, and he supposed you would have to attend her?
Yes.

Kitty Walker was present when you first came, and you ordered some warm Water and Flannels to foment her Bowels with; did not Kitty Walker come the next Morning for Medicines?
She might have come; I do not know whether she did or not.

Are you quite sure that she did not come, and that you had no Conversation with her?
I think she came that Night for Medicine.

Had you any Conversation then with her as to the State of Charlotte Allen, and what had brought her into that State?
She might have asked me.

Was there any Question asked by her as to what there was in the Delivery which had occasioned those unfortunate Circumstances?
I do not remember there was at that Time; I was not aware of the Prolapsus and Laceration.

Did you say that it was no Fault of hers?
No; I do not believe I did.

You saw the Woman the following Morning?
Yes; first by myself.

And afterwards with Mr. King?
Yes.

Was Kitty Walker there when Mr. King was there?
I do not remember whether she was or not.

You knew Kitty Walker at that Time?
Yes; she might have been there; I cannot say.

Did you hear any Conversation between Kitty Walker and Mr. King?
No.

That was the Day on which you examined the Person of the Woman?
Yes.

Did Mr. King examine her?
Not then.

Had you and Mr. King any Conversation together with Kitty Walker?
Not that I remember.

If she has said that you and Mr. King together examined the Person of Charlotte Allen in her Presence, is that true, or is it not true?
I think when I saw her on the following Morning I was by myself.

That was on the Thursday, and then on the Friday you and Mr. King saw her?
I saw her on the Friday Morning first by myself, and afterwards with Mr. King.

Then upon that Occasion are you positive that Kitty Walker had no Conversation with Mr. King in your Presence?
I am not positive.

Did you and Mr. King examine her together?
I do not think we did.

Mr. R. B. Ruddock.

You must know whether you and Mr. King did examine her or not together at any Time.

I will not swear that we did not examine her together, but my Opinion is that we did not do so.

You are not sure that you did not?

I would not swear it. On the following Morning when I examined her Mr. King was not with me.

Then on the next Day Mr. King went with you, and it is stated that you together examined the Person of Charlotte Allen in the Presence of Kitty Walker, the Midwife, and that the Appearance was very different from what it had been when she was examined by Mr. Waites?

I am almost positive that I was alone when I examined her.

Can you say that Mr. King ever examined her at all?

He examined her so far as this, that one Day, when I was from Home, the Nurse came down to say that something was the Matter, and he went up and found that the Uterus had fallen down.

Was that before or after you had examined her?

Some Days afterwards; this is what Mr. King tells me.

That you know from Mr. King?

Yes.

This was during the Time that your Bill was to be paid for as for private Patients?

The first Part of the Attendance was.

Up to what Period?

I believe the last Day we attended her as a private Patient was the 14th of July.

Was it after 14th or 15th of July that you found her in this State which you have been mentioning?

It was before that.

Then it was during the Time that you were to be paid for her as a private Patient?

It was.

How long had you continued after that?

I attended her backwards and forwards during the whole Time she remained at Stowey.

How long did you attend her daily?

I cannot say.

Was it in consequence of the State in which you found her that you begged of Mr. King to go and see her?

It was.

Have you ever given an Opinion to the Effect, that the State in which she was then would be irremediable, and would render her miserable for the rest of her Life?

I do not know whether I have or not.

Is it your Opinion that it will be so, or was it your Opinion that it would be so at the Time?

My Opinion is, that that Laceration is not remediable.

And that it will be the Cause of Suffering to her for the rest of her Life?

Yes, I think so.

Intolerably offensive to those around her?

The last Time I saw her she told me she was subject or liable to unpleasant Discharges.

Is it your Opinion that she will be intolerably offensive to those around her for the Remainder of her Life?

If she is subject to those Discharges she will.

Are those only occasional?
Yes.

Is she in such a State of Weakness that she can stand up for only a few Minutes at the Time?
She told me the last Time I saw her that she could do no Labour.

This Case of Charlotte Allen is stated in this Pamphlet, which is called, "Facts connected with the Medical Relief of the Poor in the Bridgwater Union;" did you furnish to the Person who wrote the Pamphlet the Circumstances of the Case that are detailed in it?
I believe I furnished the principal Part of that.

Upon your Character as a Medical Man, are the Medical Facts stated in Page 65, which has been just shown you, the true Facts of that Case of Charlotte Allen?
I consider that if she remains in the State that she is in at present she will be miserable to herself as long as she lives.

Taking the whole Case as stated in that Page, are the Medical Facts of that Case stated properly; and the Question is asked you, staking your Character as a professional Man upon it?
I do not see any thing in that Case which is contrary to the Opinion I have formed of her, and which Opinion I still entertain.

That it is irremediable?
I would not swear that it is irremediable.

But are the Medical Facts true with respect to the Prolapsus, and so forth?
When speaking of the dreadful Laceration and the Prolapsus of the Womb, which is irremediable, I do not speak from my own Experience, because I have never had a Case in which Laceration has continued so long and been cured, but from the Opinion of Medical Writers in general I should consider that it could not be cured.

At all events, it is true that she had a Laceration of the Perinæum?
I would swear that she had a Laceration.

It is true that she had a Prolapsus Uteri?
Yes.

You give your Opinion that if she had been attended by a more skilful Person it would not have occurred?
I will not swear that, but I think that there is more Chance of her not having received the Injury if she had been attended by a Medical Man; and I consider that had the Woman been attended by a Medical Man the Chances of her being cured would have been greater, because in our own Practice a Case of the same Kind occurred about the same Time; that Woman was treated properly, and got well, and is well to this Day.

Had she been better attended the Chances of this Accident would have been less?
Certainly; and supposing it had occurred, I consider that had she been attended afterwards by a Medical Man there would have been a greater Probability that the Laceration would have been cured.

And consequently a permanent Recovery?
Yes.

Is it possible that the Symptoms could have arisen from her having got up at too early a Period, or from any Violence having been used in the Examination of her Person?
It might have occurred either from her getting up, had she used violent Exercise, or had she been improperly examined.

Are you not aware that Medical Writers speak of many Cases in which the Symptoms you describe have arisen from an improper Examination of the Person?
I do not remember that I have read so.

Mr. R. B. Ruddock.

You are aware that that may arise from improper Examination?
I consider that it may.

Would not that be likely to get well much sooner than if it arose during the Period of Delivery; if too much Violence had been used in the Examination of her Person would not that be more quickly cured than if it had arisen from Labour?
I do not see why it should be more quickly cured if it arose from Violence

How came you not to examine her Person that Night when you were sent for?
I did not consider it necessary.

Could you not tell, from the Complaint she made, and from what was detailed to you, that there must have been some Accident of that Sort?
No.

What did you conceive that she was suffering under?
I considered the violent Inflammation that she was labouring under was sufficient to account for the Pain she was suffering.

From what Cause did you suppose that Pain to arise?
Puerperal Fever.

She was suffering under Puerperal Fever?
Yes.

And you considered her Pain was in consequence of that Fever?
Yes.

The Committee find in your Book, dated July the 15th, the Name entered, and opposite the Name, "Hysteritis Simplex," and the following Week it is entered "Puerperal Fever"?
That is the same as Puerperal Fever.

Why did you change the Name?
I had no Object in doing so.

Is it called so at Pleasure by Medical Persons, sometimes Puerperal Fever, and sometimes Hysteritis Simplex?
Yes; Puerperal Fever is the common Name, and Hysteritis Simplex is the professional Name.

And in the Book, dated the 14th of July, her Complaint is stated to be no longer Puerperal Fever, but Debility?
Yes; it may have been so. I forget at present what the Course of the Process was.

Had she got rid of the more aggravated Symptoms?
I suppose so.

Was she cured of the more aggravated Symptoms?
Of the Inflammation, no Doubt.

Does that imply the Cure of the Prolapsus?
Certainly not.

What is Hepatitis?
Inflammation of the Liver.

Do you know at what Time it was that she went out of the Union?
I do not; but I have no Doubt that my Book states that.

On the 15th of March last there is this Entry, "This Woman has gone away, and a good go too;" is that written by you?
It is.

Did you write that because you found her troublesome?
I had a great deal of Trouble with her; when I saw her first I had to see her Five or Six Times in the Day; I was called up in the Night to see her.

Had you any Apprehension that she would become insane?
She was deranged for a few Days.

Mr. R. B. Ruddock.

What was the Occasion of her Derangement?
If I remember right, it was brought on by her being told that she was to go to the Workhouse.

The Entry is this, the Date of December the 28th :—"This Woman has been for several Days deranged in her Mind, occasioned, in my Opinion, by the Proposal to remove her to the Union Workhouse, to which she constantly referred;" then subsequently, "Her Mind is now better, but in other respects she is just the same as when I made my last Report; I consider her in a doubtful State, and that it would not be right to repeat the Proposal for her Removal;" and afterwards she went away Five Miles into the other Union; did she suffer from that Removal?
I do not know; I am not aware that she did.

How soon after her Removal did you see her?
I forget when it was; it may have been Six Weeks or Two Months ago; I cannot speak confidently.

Did the Child live or die?
It lived.

Is the Child with her?
It was when I last saw her.

This Book is laid before the Guardians, is it not?
Yes.

With respect to this Entry, "and a good go too," did the Guardians ever make any Remark upon that Subject?
No.

You do not go to the Board?
No.

Did you often make Remarks of that Sort in your Report: "this Woman has gone away, and a good go too;" do you think that is serious enough for the Sort of Thing that this Report is?
I did not think there was any Harm in making it.

When you said it was "a good go too" did you think it a good Thing for yourself?
I thought it a good Thing for myself.

Did you consider it a good Thing for her?
I thought she would be benefited by Change of Air.

These Words "a good go too," have no Reference to her, but yourself?
To me.

In point of fact, it had nothing to do with the Patient, but was an Expression of Joy that you had got rid of her?
Yes.

Do you think it is a proper Thing for you to make an Entry of that Sort in a serious Report of the Illness of the Patients?
I did not see any Harm in doing so.

Do you mean to say that it was a good Thing for the Woman, whose Case you have described in the Way detailed in this Pamphlet, to go in a Cart Five Miles over cross Country Roads?
Not in the State in which she was described in that Book.

What is the Date of that Book?
I do not know.

Do you think that her Case is altered since?
I do not consider that she is in the same State as she was in at first.

Do you think there was no Impropriety in her going Five Miles over cross Country Roads in a Cart?
I do not consider that it would do her any Injury.

Mr. R. B. Ruddock.

Do you know where she went to?
She went to some Relation's.

In what Direction?
She went to a Place called Crowcombe.

Over the Quandock Hills?
Yes.

The Roads are not the smoothest Roads, are they?
They are not so bad as a great many Country Roads.

This is a Person whom you considered irremediable from Prolapsus Uteri, is it not?
I did not consider that she was suffering irremediably from the Prolapsus, because I considered that might be cured.

Was there any thing in her Removal that appeared to you to be likely to aggravate her Sufferings?
I considered that she would be more benefited by the Change of Air than she would be injured by the Removal.

Would she not be equally improved by the Change of Air in Bridgwater?
I considered that the Country Air, and being among her Friends, was more likely to benefit her Health.

What Situation of Life were her Friends in that she went among?
They are poor People.

Was she likely to have good Medical Advice?
I do not know the Medical Man of that District.

Would she not have had Medical Advice in the Workhouse?
I suppose she would, if she had required it.

Is not the present Workhouse in an airy Situation?
It is.

Would not the Removal to the Workhouse in an airy Situation, where she would have had Medical Advice on the Spot, contribute more to her Health than being removed to a Part of the Country among Friends where she could not have Medical Advice?
I did not consider that at the Time she was removed she actually required Medical Advice.

How came you to attend upon her?
She was poorly.

You had attended upon her up to that Time?
I had.

Then you thought it necessary to attend her?
Yes.

If she had not gone would you have continued to attend her?
If she had not got better; I do not think that she actually required it.

Then you attended her though you did not consider it necessary to do so?
I did not attend her unless I did consider it necessary.

This Road from Stowey to Crowcombe, is it a Road which a Gentleman's Four-wheeled Carriage would easily travel along?
I know very little of that Road, but as far as the Road is concerned I should suppose it is, because it is the Road from Bridgwater to Crowcombe.

Does the Road from Crowcombe to Bridgwater go through Stowey?
It does not go through Stowey, but through Part of the Parish.

What was the Amount of your Bill for Three Weeks?
I forget what the exact Amount was.

Do you know what was the Amount of your Charge for Attendance upon this Woman? was it 7*l.* 5*s.*?
It might have been; I cannot say positively.

Mr. R. B. Ruddock.

The Charges that you made during that Time were precisely the same Charges as you made to any Family that you visited?
Just so. That is the most violent and severe Case I have had since I have attended the Union.

What is the Character of this Woman?
I knew nothing about the Woman before I went to see her.

Is she a Native of Stowey?
I do not know.

Has she Friends there?
I do not think she has; she belongs to that Parish.

How came she to get her Settlement there?
I do not know.

When this Matter of this Woman happened did you make any special Report upon the Subject of her Sufferings to the Board of Guardians?
I do not believe I gave any specific Account of the Prolapsus.

Did you state it in private to the Chairman or any Member of the Board of Guardians?
Not to the Chairman, certainly; I might have told the Guardians of it.

Did you or your Partner ever make any other Reports than what are contained in this Book?
Never; unless I wrote a Letter upon any particular Occasion.

Did you write a Letter upon that Occasion?
No, I did not.

Then you made no other Report but what is contained in this Book?
None but in this Book.

Did you not state to them the Neglect of the Relieving Officer, or the Ignorance or the Want of Skill of the Widwife?
I am not aware that the Relieving Officer had neglected any thing.

Did you not state to the Board any thing about this Woman having suffered from this Neglect of theirs, or from the Want of Skill of Kitty Walker?
No.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Mr. Robert Young.

Mr. ROBERT YOUNG is called in, and examined as follows:

YOU are a Surgeon?
I am.

You have the Charge of the Hill District?
Yes.

Where do you live?
At Ashcot.

Have you lately taken that District?
I have.

In June 1837?
Yes.

Was that the first Time you had taken a District under the Union?
It was.

How long have you been resident in the District?
Since October of the previous Year.

Who had the District before you?
Mr. Baruch Toogood had Part of the District; and when I came into the District, in consequence of its being said to be too large for myself, though it was not too large for Mr. Baruch Toogood before, the Board of Guardians divided it.

Mr. Robert Young.

And you being resident within that, it was given to you?
It was.

Did you make a Tender for it?
No; the Salaries were sent out by the Board of Guardians at the old Prices, and I as resident in the District thought that I was equally entitled, perhaps rather more than a Person resident some Miles Distance not in the District.

Is that the Advertisement of the 22d of May that you are speaking of?
It was the first Advertisement.

That first Advertisement contained the Terms upon which you now have it?
It did.

There has been no Increase in it?
Not at all.

And no Increase to the Numbers put under your Charge?
None at all.

You were appointed on the 16th of June?
Yes, to the Hill District.

That was the Day that was named for the Election?
Yes.

You say that you came to live there in October 1836?
I did.

Had you any private Practice at that Time?
Yes.

Had you Connexions in the Country?
Not nearer than Taunton. The Hill District was the District to which I was originally appointed. I had the Offer of the Two Districts at the old Prices, which I have refused.

And you are now in Negotiation with the Guardians?
I am. I have had no official Document since my Refusal, but the Election does not officially take place till the 21st.

What is the Difference between your present Demand and that for which you took those Two Districts last Year?
They have not asked me to send in any Tender at the present; they elected me, without my requesting it, at the old Salaries, subject to my Approbation.

That they have done with respect to all?
Yes.

When was that conveyed to you?
About a Fortnight ago.

Have you any Objection to say why you have not answered it?
Merely that the Salary is not sufficiently adequate to the Duties of the Office.

You discovered that in the course of last Year?
I did.

You find upon Experience that that is not a sufficient Salary?
Yes; but I was convinced at the Time that it was not adequate.

Why then did you accept it?
For the same Reason that all young Men take Districts now, and took them formerly, as Stepping-stones to Practice.

Then is it your Opinion that you are not sufficiently remunerated for your Trouble?
Certainly not.

At the Time that you were elected to the Charge of this District there was an Association at Bridgwater, called "The District Branch of the Medical and Surgical Association;" did you belong to it?
I did.

Mr. Robert Young.

Have you been present at their Consultations?
At the half-yearly Meetings I have attended; it was a Branch District of a Central Association, which Centre was at Worcester, Dr. Hastings at the Head of it.

How long had it been formed at Bridgwater previous to this 24th of May?
It was not originally formed at Bridgwater; Bridgwater was one of the Three Towns at which we held our Meetings,—Bridgwater, Wells, and Taunton, and it took in the adjoining Town.

When did it begin to meet at Bridgwater?
In September 1837.

Then it was not till some Time after the first Letter of the Medical Gentlemen in that Year?
The September after the June, Four or Five Months.

Then this Letter did not emanate from the Association?
Decidedly not; though it was supposed by a select Body of the Incorporation that they were entitled to consider this as a Meeting of the Association, without first applying to the Board to ask whether they had their Sanction.

That Letter being written to the Board of Guardians, and signed by all the Surgeons who had served the Board during the preceding Year, and some of the older Practitioners in that Neighbourhood?
Yes.

You were aware of that at the Time?
I was.

Did you receive a Note to attend the Meeting previous to your Election?
I received an anonymous Note, and I also received one bearing the Signature of Mr. Baruch Toogood.

What did that invite you to do?
It invited me to attend the Meeting for the Purpose of taking into consideration the Effects of the Poor Law Bill, as far as related to the Remarks contained in it medically, relative to the Profession generally.

A Meeting of the Association?
A Meeting of the Association.

It was before the Association was formed?
Before it met at Bridgwater.

Where was this Meeting to be?
At the Clarence Hotel in Bridgwater. Here is the Note which I had anonymously.

Then it was to be a Meeting of the Association?
Yes. "Sir, A Meeting of the Medical Profession will be held at the Clarence Hotel, Bridgwater, on Thursday the 8th Instant, at One o'Clock, for the Purpose of taking into consideration the present Position of Medical Men as regards the Poor Law Bill."

Then it was not a Meeting of the Association, but a Meeting of the Profesions of that Place?
Yes.

That was the 8th of June?
Yes; before my Election to the District.

Did you attend that Meeting?
I did not.

Why did you not?
I did not attend, in consequence of my Knowledge of its being the Wish of the Medical Men in Bridgwater to keep me out of the Districts; and although worded as it is thus, I was decidedly aware that that was merely to have a Meeting of the Medical Men confined to Bridgwater, and the Result proved it, inasmuch as the Meeting was not composed of Medical Men at large throughout the different Counties, but none presented themselves but the Members of the Medical Profession at Bridgwater.

Mr. Robert Young.

Did you say you were a Member of the Association?
I am.

What is the Object of the Association?
For the general Advancement of the Profession throughout the Kingdom.

They have taken considerable pains upon this Question of Remuneration to Medical Officers under the Poor Law, have they not?
They have.

And they have complained, both by Petitions to the Two Houses of Parliament and by other Means, that the Medical Officers are improperly treated, and do not receive sufficient Remuneration?
They have.

Have you joined in such Representations?
I have not actually signed such Petition; it has not come into our Quarter, inasmuch as ours is a Branch Association.

If it came into your Quarter should you sign the Petition, as far as regards the receiving an insufficient Remuneration?
Yes, I should sign that.

When did that Association first begin?
The Central Association has been in existence for some Years.

What do you mean by some Years?
Decidedly before the new Poor Law was brought into action.

When you were elected those who had served the Parish for the preceding Year, and those that had written the Letter to the Board of Guardians which appeared previous to that Election, were in a Room at hand; were they not?
They were at hand.

Whereabouts were they?
In the Neighbourhood of the Board of Guardians, where the Board was sitting.

Were they in a Room, or in the open Air?
I believe in both at different Times.

When you had been elected you stated to the Guardians that some of the other Medical Men had behaved improperly and uncivilly to you?
Yes.

Will you have the goodness to state to the Committee what that Conduct was?
At this Meeting were passed certain Resolutions which were to this Effect: that any Medical Man taking Office at the present Rate of Remuneration should be deemed by this Body, this Party at Bridgwater, unprofessional, unhandsome in their Conduct, and unworthy of the Confidence of their professional Brethren. Those Resolutions were not made known to a single Individual except those who were present until the Termination of the Election, which was privately agreed at the Meeting; the Consequence was, I was not able, had I been willing, to have sided with those Medical Men in demanding or asking for an Increase of Salary at the Board, and I inadvertently sent my Testimonials in to the Board, quite unaware of any thing that had taken place at their Meeting; and I thought that if what the Note expressed as that which was about to be taken in consideration was the real Fact that the Medical Profession at large would be made acquainted with those Facts. I then said, "If such is the Case, I will join the Profession at large; but to serve any private Portion of the Profession, and cut myself out, I am not going to lend my Hand to such a Thing, decidedly not." On my Election one of the Party taunted me with unprofessional Conduct.

Who was that?
Mr. Caswell. Mr. Abraham King was the first Person who came up to me, with whom before I had been on friendly Terms till the Day of the Election, and he said, in Words to this Effect, "I am now directed by the Meeting that was convened

convened the other Day for the Purpose of considering the Benefit of the Medical Profession with regard to the Poor Law, to tell you what Resolutions were passed;" and he told me the Resolutions I allude to; on which I told them all candidly, that it was a very ungentlemanly and very unprofessional Mode of proceeding, and that the least they could have done was to make me acquainted with the Resolution before I sent in the Testimonials, which they were aware I was about to do; and having agreed to take the District, I was obliged to abide by it. Nor was I sorry that such was the Fact, because I did not consider myself entangled in any Deficiency of professional Etiquette. *Mr. Robert Young.*

What did Mr. Caswell say?

He expressed himself in a very insulting Manner; some very ungentlemanly Simile, which it would be scarcely worth while to repeat.

Did you make a Complaint to the Board of that Conduct?

With regard to their telling me that I should have no Assistance in my Medical Capacity, I did. I went up immediately.

You requested to see the Board again, did you?

I did.

Did you state to the Board that you had been treated in a most ungentlemanly and insulting Manner by several of the Medical Officers, and told by them that, whatever your Difficulties might be, they would not render you any Assistance?

I did; they told me so.

Did Mr. King tell you so?

Mr. King was one of the Number.

Was he the chief Organ, or Mr. Caswell?

I hardly know which; Mr. King's Communication was not in an ungentlemanly Way; Mr. Caswell's was. Mr. John Toogood was there, and Mr. Baruch Toogood was there.

Did they behave in an unhandsome Manner?

Three of them, Mr. Caswell, Mr. Addison, and Mr. Abraham King.

Did you consider that which those Gentlemen said to be the Opinion of all the others?

I did; the Opinion of all the Medical Men in Bridgwater.

Since you have been appointed have you found any Unwillingness on the Part of the Medical Men to act with you?

I am happy to say that no Cases have occurred in which I have had Occasion to ask for their Assistance.

Upon what Sort of Terms are you with them now?

In consequence of their having behaved in an unprofessional Manner since, I cannot say that I am on very friendly Terms with some of the Parties.

Have you found any Difficulty in performing your Duty in consequence of that Resolution?

I have not; inasmuch as I got the Permission of the Board to get the Assistance of any Medical Friend in the Neighbourhood, as I had many, when I liked, independently of those officially connected with the Union.

Are you a Stranger to that Country?

I was a Medical Pupil of a Gentleman at Taunton.

How far is this Place where you live from Taunton?

Fifteen Miles.

How far from Bridgwater?

Ten Miles.

So that you are not very far from Half Way between Taunton and Bridgwater?

They form a Triangle.

But it is five Miles further to send to Taunton than to Bridgwater?

Yes; indeed, we have nearer Medical Aid than Taunton, which I could have had if I had required it.

Mr. Robert Young.

And that was the Object for which you went to see the Board?
Yes; as well as to acquaint them with the unprofessional Conduct of the Surgeons.

Are you a Member of the College of Surgeons?
Yes.

And a Licentiate of the Company of Apothecaries?
I am not.

How happens it that you are not a Licentiate of the Company of Apothecaries?
My original Intention was to act as a pure Surgeon in Town, and had I done that I should not have taken out a Licentiate's Certificate; but hearing of something at Bristol which I thought would turn to my Advantage, I was induced to go down, with the Intention to act as a pure Surgeon there, which I did. That not answering, I purchased a Practice, as many young Men do, and it turned out badly. Hearing that there was a good Opening at Ashcot, I was induced to adopt the same Plan at that Place, and knowing that one of the principal Medical Men in the Neighbourhood had committed himself a good deal, I immediately went and fixed my Residence at Ashcot.

Have you any Objection to state to the Committee what the Difference between you and the Board is with respect to the Salary that you expect to have?
I am sorry to say that there is but One Stepping-stone, and I cannot say that I shall take it during the ensuing Year; it is a very poor District, and independently of One Family in the Middlezoy District, I had not a single Case of private Practice during the Year.

So that Induc ement has failed?
Yes.

Are there any Medical Clubs in your District?
There are not.

And no Prospect of any?
I think with very great Difficulty they could be formed; a great deal of Opposition would be met with from the Poor, and then they would be very small.

Would any Opposition be met with from the Medical Men?
No.

There is an Unwillingness on the Part of the Poor to contribute, on account of the Smallness of their Wages?
Yes.

You little imagined when you entered into the Agreement with the Board that you were conducting yourself in a Manner dishonouring the Profession?
I had not the least Idea that I was.

You had not had the least Intimation of it?
No.

Those Gentlemen had laid down a System of professional Morals, without communicating with anybody in their Neighbourhood?
Yes.

Perhaps you were not prepared to admit that they had the Power to do so?
I should say they had not.

Therefore they could not adequately represent the Profession?
Decidedly not.

They had not the Power to speak in its Name?
No.

Now,

Mr. Robert Young.

Now, have you found in Communication with other professional Men out of this immediate Neighbourhood any Disinclination to hold Intercourse or Communication with you?

Quite the contrary, inasmuch as it was proved at the Meeting which we had in September that all the Medical Men in Bridgwater were brought in that very Morning as nominated Members, in order to vote me out of the General Association; the Result was, they could not do it.

You keep your Place?

I keep my Place, not that I endeavoured to make Friends; and I pledged my Honour that I did not state the Circumstances to any Medical Man whatever; I said, "No; let the Justice of the Case be settled on the Day of Arbitration." I then challenged Mr. Toogood, with whom I had a fiery Battle, to choose any Three Medical Men out of Bridgwater; that I would meet them when and where he liked; I would not know who they were the Day before I met them; and that if Two out of the Three said that I had behaved unprofessionally I would erase my Name from the List of Members belonging to the Association.

Then, as far as you know the Opinion of the Profession, they have repudiated the System adopted by the Gentlemen at Bridgwater as regards yourself?

Exactly.

Have they repudiated the Attempt upon the Part of the Medical Gentlemen at Bridgwater to obtain a better Remuneration?

No; I should doubt that.

You subscribe to that?

Yes; I should be very willing to form one of its Members.

You think that Persons of a liberal Education are entitled to a proper Reward for their Services?

I do, indeed.

Are you of opinion that the Medical Officers in the Bridgwater Union have not up to this Time received such a Remuneration as they are entitled to ask?

Certainly not.

Is it your Opinion that a Supply of good Medical Attendance can be obtained for the Poor at that Rate?

I should say, not without Loss of Money and Time, which is a Medical Man's Income.

But could a Supply of Medical Men be obtained properly qualified at the Rate offered by the Bridgwater Union?

I think that ours is hardly a fair Standard of Remuneration, inasmuch as many of the neighbouring Boards have paid a much higher Rate, $6\frac{1}{2}d.$ a Head, in some of the Dorsetshire Unions.

In Somersetshire?

In Somersetshire they are paid much better in many Places, for this Reason: heir Population is more in a Ring-fence.

Is not the Population about Bridgwater pretty dense?

Very dense in the Villages; but the Villages are scattered.

The Calculation must be made with reference to the Acreage as well as the Mileage?

Yes; which I think has been the Fault, in not considering the relative Distances of Parishes and sometimes of Unions.

Have you ever made a Calculation of the Number of Miles you have gone for the Sum that you have received? What do you receive?

£35.

How many Miles have you gone for that?

I have not calculated.

Mr. Robert Young.

Have you been obliged to keep a Horse for the Purpose?
I found that One Horse could not do the Work.

You keep Two then?
Yes.

What do you reckon those Horses cost you? You are speaking of Two Districts, the Hill and the Middlezoy.
Yes.

You have not been able to do the Duty of those Districts without Two Horses?
I should keep One; but it knocks up One and a Half, at any rate.

What do you set the keeping of One Horse and a Half at?
45*l.* a Year to keep them well.

If you had gone over and pitched your Tent in Ashcott, without having any thing to do with the Union, should you not have kept a Horse?
Yes; One Horse only.

That One Horse would not have been fully employed?
No.

Can you give an Idea of the prime Cost of your Medicines?
I should say, for the Two Districts, from 12*l.* to 15*l.*

What was the Salary for the Year?
£70.

Then what was your Profit?
£10.

The elder Mr. Toogood is a Person of very considerable Influence in the Town of Bridgwater, is he not?
He is.

Do you know whether he is very intimate with the Reverend Mr. Ruddock, the Father of the Surgeon?
I should rather think so.

Do you know it?
Yes.

Do you know any thing of the Motion that was made by Mr. Ruddock in the Board of Guardians with respect to the Exclusion from the Districts of the Union of any Person who was not both an Apothecary and a Surgeon?
Yes.

If that had been carried would the Effect have been to exclude you?
It would not only have excluded me, but have retained in its Number one of the Party, who was then acting in the single Capacity.

Who was that?
Mr. Addison, who was only a Member of the Apothecaries Company.

In travelling have you any Turnpikes to pay?
Yes.

That is an Item to be taken out of that 10*l.*?
Yes.

Have you any Notion what that comes to?
I should think at least 2*l.*

When a Person first commences Practice he does not expect to make a large Sum of Money at first, does he?
No; certainly not.

But he expects to make a greater Remuneration than 8*l.* per Annum?
Yes.

Do you mean to take out a Licentiate's Certificate as an Apothecary?
I think not.

Mr. Robert Young.

You think you can carry on your Profession without it?
I think I decidedly can.

And in that District?
Yes. In fact I was taunted with the Threat of a Prosecution by one of the Party in consequence of my taking Office under the Union, not being a Licentiate of the Apothecaries Company; one of the Party told me, that no doubt the Party in Bridgwater would prosecute me in consequence of not being a Licentiate.

Are you not liable?
No; not under my own System of Practice.

What is the Effect of the Act?
The Act is, that you cannot dispense Medicine or draw out a Bill at full Length, nor can you claim for Medicines in the Case of a Law Suit; you would be nonsuited; in fact, that you can charge only for your Opinion and Time.

Is not that a considerable Disadvantage where you have no Certificate?
It depends upon your Practice; if you have convinced your Patients that your Opinion is more valuable than your Medicine they will be satisfied about it.

But, supposing that you find a Person unwilling to pay you for your Opinion and your Medicine, you could not recover it?
I never charge for my Medicines; I charge as a pure Surgeon.

You say that the Population in your District is very much scattered; is that generally the Case in the Bridgwater Union?
I think mine is the most extensive and scattered.

You say 45*l.* is the Expense of a Horse and a Half; does that include the Wear and Tear of the Horse, or is it the mere Feed?
The mere Feed.

Then a further Reduction is to be made for the Wear and Tear?
Yes; you may buy them for 50*l.*, and sell them for 40*l.*, or perhaps 20*l.*

Your Opinion is, that you may be said to get nothing for your Time and Skill?
Nothing, decidedly; in fact, the Question is, whether I am not out of Pocket by it.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Mr. R. B. Ruddock.

Mr. RICHARD BEADON RUDDOCK is again called in, and further examined as follows:

HAVE you taken a District in another Union?
I have.

What is that?
Stogursey District, in the Williton Union.

How is that situated with respect to Stowey?
It is West of Stowey.

Where do you reside?
At Stowey.

Upon what Terms have you taken that District?
4*d.* a Head.

Those were the Terms you tendered?
Yes.

How far is that from your Residence?
I suppose the most distant Point of that District is Six Miles from my Residence, the very utmost Point.

Mr. R. B. Ruddock.

Is it 4*d.* per Head upon the whole Population?
Yes.

What Parishes does it include?
Stogursey, Dodington, Stringston, Holford, East Quantoxhead, Kilve, Kilton, and Lilstock.

What is the Amount of the Population of the whole?
Under 3,000.

Is it a scattered Population?
The principal Part, more than Half, is situated at Stogursey, about Two Miles from my Residence; I go through this Parish to my other District.

The rest of it is rather wild and wide?
Some Parts of it.

It skirts the Quantox Hills?
Yes.

What is the Salary you receive?
£44.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned till To-morrow, Twelve o'Clock.

Die Martis, 19° *Junii* 1838.

The Lord WHARNCLIFFE in the Chair.

Evidence on the Operation of the Poor Law Amendment Act.

R. K. M. King, Esq.

RICHARD KING MEADE KING Esquire is called in, and examined as follows:

WHERE do you reside?
At North Petherton near Bridgwater.

You have been Vice Chairman of the Bridgwater Union?
Yes, the first Year of its Formation, from 1836 to 1837. I think the Union was formed in May. I was Vice Chairman from its Formation to Lady Day 1837.

Since Lady Day 1837 have you remained a Guardian of the Union?
Yes. I was ex officio Guardian, and am so still.

Have you attended constantly?
I have attended the great Majority of Meetings.

When you were the Vice Chairman were you an elected Guardian?
I was first of all an elected Guardian.

You have had considerable Differences at your Board upon several Subjects, and especially upon the Subject of the Remuneration to the Medical Officers of the Board?
Yes; in the Year 1837 we had.

In the Year 1836 you let the different Districts to certain Gentlemen at Rates fixed by yourselves?
Yes.

Was there, at the Time of that letting, any Conversation with Persons privately, or with the Board of Guardians publicly, on the Subject of the Insufficiency of the Remuneration, and the Prospect of their being better paid another Year?
No, not at the Time of the Formation of the Union. I heard nothing about an Insufficiency of Pay for many Months after the Union had been formed; and then, in various private Conversations with different Medical Men, I heard some of them say they were insufficiently paid.

Do you mean different Medical Men who had taken Districts, or the Medical Men in general?
I think the Medical Men in general; some of them expressed themselves as being well paid; but I think I certainly heard Complaints from One or Two, of the Insufficiency of their Remuneration.

Can you distinguish those who thought they were well paid from those who were dissatisfied?
I think I heard Mr. Addison of Burrow Bridge say that he had no Fault to find with the Remuneration; but I am not perfectly certain of the Names. I think he for one expressed himself to be sufficiently remunerated; and I heard the Guardian of his Parish say that he was remunerated in a much higher Proportion than he had been under the old System.

Can you mention any others?
No, I do not think I can.

R. K. M. King, Esq.

Can you mention, on the other hand, those who have expressed themselves dissatisfied?

Mr. Tilsley, the Medical Man of my own Parish of North Petherton. About the Close of the first Year of his Contract I heard him and likewise his Partner state that he was not sufficiently remunerated.

On what Principle did you fix those Salaries in the first instance?

A Committee was formed for the Purpose of endeavouring to arrange the Medical Districts and the Salaries, and I was one of the Committee. We expressed ourselves perfectly in the Dark on the Subject of Medical Remuneration. Mr. Weale being present, we asked whether he could give us any Guide; he said in the Unions he had formed in West Somerset he found that about 3*d.* a Head on the gross Population would be sufficient Remuneration, except in Districts densely populated, as in Towns, and there he thought $2\frac{1}{2}d.$ sufficient. It was on that Information we received that we laid down the Remuneration. It was all new to us.

$2\frac{1}{2}d.$ where the Population was dense?

Yes; he said he had found that sufficient in other Places.

Did he raise it above 3*d.* in some Cases where the Population was extremely scattered?

Yes; in some of our Districts we gave a Trifle above 3*d.*; but I think he said from $2\frac{1}{2}d.$ where it was very dense to 3*d.* I think we offered $3\frac{1}{4}d.$ or $3\frac{1}{2}d.$ where it was very scattered. In North Petherton, the largest Agricultural Parish in the Union, I think it was as nearly as possible 3*d.* a Head.

Were you cognizant of the Chairman of the Board or any Member of the Board holding out to those Gentlemen that it was a mere temporary Arrangement, and that they would probably be better paid next Year, by means of Medical Clubs, or otherwise?

No, not exactly that; there was an Understanding, certainly, that the first was a Year of Probation, and that the Guardians on the one Hand and the Medical Men on the other would be better Judges of what was a fit Remuneration another Year: we were all somewhat in the Dark.

Both Parties were at liberty to suggest any Alteration in the Division of the Districts?

Yes. With respect to the Medical Men, next Year their Opinions were asked respecting the Division of the Districts, and they were requested to make any Suggestions.

During the first Year had you any Reason to complain of the Conduct of any of the Medical Officers?

No, I think not; I have no Recollection of the Kind.

In the ensuing Year did that Committee sit again upon the Subject of the Salaries and the Divisions of the Districts?

I think there was a Committee formed the ensuing Year, but I was not a Member of it.

You had a Meeting on the 18th of May 1837, had not you, at which the Medical Officers were requested to attend?

We had.

Upon that Occasion you consulted the Medical Officers in respect to the Division of the Districts, but not with respect to the Salaries?

I have no distinct Recollection of being present, but if I was my Name will appear on the Minutes.

[It appears from the Minute Book that the Witness was not present].

Do you know how far the Medical Officers were consulted with respect either to the Division of the Districts or to their Salaries?

No; because I was not a Member of the Committee in the Year 1837, and was not present on the 18th of May, when they attended the Board.

On what Principle did you fix the new Salaries in 1837?
I really do not know on what Principle the Committee fixed them. It was done I believe entirely by the Committee.

You in point of fact knew nothing of the Salaries that were to be given to each of those Medical Officers for the several Districts before you saw the Advertisement on the 22d of May?
I did not; that was the first Information I had. I thought some of the Sums mentioned there were rather too low when I read the Advertisement.

Upon what Principle did you think them too low? Did you think the former Proportions of 2½*d.* on the Population in the more populous Parts, and from 3*d.* to 3½*d.* in the others, was too low, or was it that you thought that 3*d.* per Head was too low for that Population?
I looked more particularly to my own District of North Petherton. I found that the Sum proposed to be given was 55*l.*; I calculated what that would be per Head, and found it was only about 2¾*d.*, which was a Farthing under the 3*d.* a Head which Mr. Weale recommended us to give; and from the Observations I had made, and knowing pretty well the Duties Mr. Tilsley had to perform, I thought 3*d.* a Head rather too low. I attended more to my own District than the others, and I was surprised to find that so low a Sum was proposed.

Did you attend the Board on the 2d of June?
Yes, I did.

Upon that Occasion there was a Letter produced from the Medical Officers?
Yes; a Letter was brought into the Room.

Is that the Letter on Page 61 of the Papers laid before this Committee?
Yes.

That was accompanied with an Addition or Recommendation of the other Medical Men of Bridgwater?
It was.

When this was read to the Board of Guardians was the Result that there was a considerable Feeling excited in the Board by the reading it?
There certainly was. I believe upon that Occasion I suggested the Propriety of withdrawing the Advertisement of the 22d of May, and I stated as my Reason for doing so, that I thought the Remunerations proposed were too low, and that if the Board were satisfied they had done wrong in issuing that Advertisement the better Way was at once to withdraw the Advertisement, to prevent any unpleasant Feeling, which I thought likely to occur, between the Board and the Medical Men. The Board did not at all concur in my Suggestion, and one of the Guardians, an ex-officio Guardian, since dead, Mr. Poole, in particular replied to my Suggestion by saying he thought that would show very vacillating Conduct in the Board, one Day to put forward an Advertisement and to withdraw it on the next; and that he thought the best Way would be to wait till the 16th of June, and see what Tenders were given in, according to that Advertisement. I felt the Force of his Argument, and that the Adoption of my Suggestion would look like an Inconsistency in the Conduct of the Board, and I yielded. I found the general Feeling of the Board was against me, and I felt there was Ground for it, and from Respect to the Guardian who in particular took the View of the Matter which I have mentioned I withdrew my Proposition.

Were there any Remarks made upon the Terms of the Letter?
I think it was said that the Letter was not very courteously expressed; it was handed in, and nobody knew who brought it; it was just thrown upon the Table. Some of the Guardians said it was not very courteously addressed; that it appeared to be a very hasty Document, or Words to that Effect.

They could not mean that it was a hastily considered Document, inasmuch as it appeared that the Persons who signed the Document had got that Addition to it from their Brethren in Bridgwater?
I think some Observation was made that the Ink was scarcely dry; and it

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appeared in fact as if it had been just written, and in haste. Some of the Guardians thought it was not well considered.

On looking at that Paper itself is there any thing in the Substance of the Letter, and the Manner in which it is expressed, which appears to you improper on the Part of those Gentlemen?

No, I do not think there is; but I was sorry to see the Letter, because I thought that if the Medical Men at the previous Meeting, when called before the Board, had stated verbally what they wrote, probably the original Advertisement never would have been issued. I was therefore very sorry myself to see the Letter come in.

In that Case it would have been necessary for the Board of Guardians to ask their Opinion on the Subject of the Salaries?

Not being present at that Meeting I cannot say what took place, but I understood that the Medical Men were invited to give their Opinions on the Subject of the Salaries.

If they were not invited to give an Opinion on the Subject of the Salaries, but only of the Divisions, was it not very natural they should take some Step subsequently to the Advertisement, to give their Opinion on the Subject of the Salaries?

Yes.

Have you not since understood that when they attempted to speak on the Subject of Salary they were checked?

No. I have always understood that it was expected that if they had any Objection to make to the Salaries they would make it at that Time; that was the Feeling then, and has been ever since. I thought that if they had expressed their Feelings at the previous Meeting, they very probably would not have expressed that which they have by this Letter.

The following Resolution is read from the Minutes of the 5th of May:

The following Statement of a proposed Division of the Union into Districts for Medical Relief having been produced to the Board, and read, it was resolved, on the Motion of T. W. Inman, Esquire, and seconded by Mr. Francis Brice, That a Copy of the same be forwarded to each of the Medical Officers belonging to the Union, with a Request that they will, on or before Thursday next, forward to the Clerk any Remarks thereon that may appear to them to be useful, in order to assist the Board in their Consideration of this Subject.

On what Ground have you come to the Conclusion that they had been invited to give their Opinion on the Subject of the Salaries?

From what many of the Guardians told me. I think the Chairman, amongst the rest, and others, said the Board sat for the Purpose of hearing any Suggestions on the Subject of the Districts or Salaries. I can only speak from Hearsay; that has been my Impression ever since.

Mr. Warry was the Chairman?

Yes.

Did he not tell you that he had stopped some Medical Man who was going on to speak of the Salaries?

I do not recollect his saying any thing of the Kind.

On the Receipt of the Letter was there any thing said with respect to sending an Answer to it by the Board?

No, I do not remember anything. I think I have stated what did take place; the Suggestion I made, and the Answer given by Mr. Poole, who is since dead. He said, "Let us wait and see the Result of the Advertisement on the 16th of June;" and I think there the Conversation dropped. I did not make any Motion on the Subject, feeling the Board was against me.

Did you hear any Accusations of uncandid and improper Conduct on the Part of the Medical Officers?

I think several of the Guardians expressed a Wish that the Medical Men had stated that which they wrote, when they were called before the Board, on the previous Day.

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Was there any thing like strong Language, that this was scandalous Conduct, or any thing of that Sort?

No. I think nothing at all so strong as that, but more an Expression of Regret that the Medical Men had not thought fit to make the Statement on the Day previous, when they were called before the Board, which they then made in Writing.

Nothing was said about sending an Answer?

I do not remember any thing being said about sending an Answer.

Did it not appear to yourself that it would have been advisable to have taken some Notice of it?

I concluded that the Clerk would acknowledge the Receipt of the Letter, which it seems he did not; for many Letters are received of which nothing is said, but which, in the usual Course, the Clerk acknowledges.

Does he acknowledge all the Letters he receives?

He acknowledges the greatest Number, I conceive.

Would it not have been better for the Clerk to have answered this Letter, and to have said the Letter had been received, but that you did not think it right to make any Alteration until the 16th of June?

Certainly that was an Oversight on the Part of the Board; it would have been more courteous; but I can positively state that no Slight was intended by the Board towards the Medical Men.

Independent of the Courtesy, do you not think it would have been a much more likely Way to bring the Matter to a satisfactory Conclusion, if a Letter of that Kind had been written?

I think it possible it might; we certainly ought to have directed an Answer, although I am sure the Board did not mean, in omitting so to do, to act discourteously; there was no Insult intended.

If such an Answer as that had been returned it would have been a Notice to the Gentlemen, not only that the Letter had been received, but that the Matter would be taken into consideration on a future Day?

I am quite willing to confess we ought to have returned an Answer.

At the same Time that would not have pledged you to any particular Course?

We certainly should have answered the Letter; but I still beg leave to say I am sure the Board did not intend to convey an Insult to the Medical Men; it was an Oversight.

Was it at the next Meeting that the Letter of the 6th of June was received?

Yes; it was at the Meeting on the 9th of June, I think, that Letter was read; but I received a Copy of it Two or Three Days before. It was printed and circulated, and a Copy sent me by the Post a Day or Two before the Meeting, and on the 9th of June the Letter was read.

In the first Paragraph they speak of having heard vague Reports of their having been charged with uncandid and improper Conduct. Had there been any thing in the Discussion in the Board that could warrant any body so to represent the Feelings exhibited on that Occasion by the Board?

No. I think that is too strongly expressed; I do not think any Expressions imported that.

Was there any such Expression used at the Board as to imply that they considered the Parties guilty of Conspiracy or Combination?

A good deal was talked about Combination, because it was understood that the Medical Men at Bridgwater had had a Meeting, which they called a Medical Association.

If that Expression was used would it not very naturally lead to those Parties thinking they had been charged with uncandid and improper Conduct?

I think it was on the Meeting of the 9th of June there was a Talk about Combination.

There was none on the 2d?

No. I think the Meeting of the Medical Association did not take place till after the 2d.

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Can you tell to what the Statement in that Paragraph refers?
I dare say it may have referred to the Discussion which took place at the Board on the 2d of June; and most probably the Expressions, whatever they were, which were used, would come to the Medical Men, second or third hand, a good deal magnified; but I think no Expressions were used implying uncandid or improper Conduct.

Was Mr. Weale present at that Meeting?
No, I do not think he was.

Of course after the Receipt of that Letter of June 6th the Feelings of the Board of Guardians were more irritated than they had been before?
Yes, certainly.

And they probably used stronger Expressions after that than they had previously?
I think there were much stronger Expressions used after the Receipt of that Letter; and I think it was after the Receipt of that Letter some Conversation took place with respect to the Combination of the Medical Men.

To that Letter a Reply was given to the Board?
Yes; a Reply which is printed.

It was written on the Day the Letter was received?
Yes.

There is one Paragraph in this Letter: "The Board cannot help lamenting the Tone of your Communications, little calculated to promote that cordial Co-operation with the Board on which the Well-being of the Poor and the Interests of all concerned so essentially depend." There was some Difference of Opinion in the Board on the Subject of that Paragraph, was there not?
It seems so, as printed here, but I have no Recollection of the Circumstance.

Was the Answer written at the Board?
Yes; I remember it very well.

They do not usually state the Numbers on the Division?
No; and it was a Remark that somebody must have taken them down specially, for that they are never taken down in the Minute Book.

Was there a Division?
I think it probable that there was, but I cannot recollect that there was.

In the Letter of the 6th of June those Medical Gentlemen tender their Services gratuitously till some other Arrangement can be made, provided such Arrangement can be perfected within a reasonable Period. The Answer to that acknowledges the Generosity of the Offer, but does not either accept or refuse it?
No.

What was meant to be done?
The Intention of the Board was, not to accept the Tender, in order that the Board might be perfectly unfettered; they did not wish to put themselves under further Obligations to the Medical Men.

Subsequently they were ordered to attend the Patients, and to charge as for private Patients?
Yes.

On the 16th of June, which would be the next Board Day, were you present?
I was.

That was the Day which had been fixed for the Elections?
Yes.

On that Occasion the Board received some Letters containing Tenders from the Medical Officers?
Yes, they did.

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Is this a correct Account of the Offer: "On the 16th of June they offered to take the Charge of the Districts marked 2, 6, 7, 8, at 4*d.* a Head, No. 5. at $3\frac{3}{4}d.$, and the Bridgwater District at 3*d.*, on the gross Population of 1832; and the Union House, which is intended to contain 300 People, at 50*l.* a Year"?

Yes, I believe there was some Offer of the Sort, and each of them wrote Letters.

When those Letters were received, was there any Discussion in the Board respecting them?

Yes; a great deal of Discussion took place, and particularly on the Subject of the Meeting of the Medical Men. Then I believe it was called a Combination, where they had pledged themselves not to accept any Appointment under the Board without the Sanction of a Committee of Three Medical Men. A great deal of Discussion took place on the whole Question.

Do you know on what Day that Meeting was held?

No.

The Association had been formed previous to that Meeting on the 16th of June?

Yes.

Had you seen those Resolutions advertised in the Papers?

No; I dare say they had been shown to me, perhaps in Manuscript, on the Board Day, but I had not seen them before.

They had not been made public?

No; they were not circulated. The first Time I saw them in Print was when I saw them in this Pamphlet, which bears Date November 1837.

The following Letters are read from the Letter Book:

Sir,

The undersigned Medical Gentlemen beg respectfully to inform the Board of Guardians that they are willing to undertake the Care of the Poor on fair and equitable Terms, although they cannot accept the Offer contained in the Circular Letter addressed to them.

They beg to direct the Attention of the Board to the Fact, that the Average Payment on the Population in the Bridgwater Union is considerably lower than in others.

John Evered Poole.
Wm. Lakin Caswell.
Joseph Addison.
Horatio N. Tilsley.
Richard B. Ruddock.
Baruch Toogood.
Abraham King.

Gentlemen, 22d June.

I am willing to undertake the Care of the Poor in the Cannington District at $4\frac{1}{2}d.$ per Head on the gross Population, with 10*s.* for each Case of Midwifery, if sent indiscriminately, but of difficult Cases only One Sovereign each.

(Signed) *John Evered Poole.*

Gentlemen, 23d June.

I lament exceedingly that there could not be found any Means of disposing of the Medical Care of the Poor of your Union but that of Tender, a System which I believe we are all agreed derogates from the Respectability of that Profession of which I have the Honour to be a Member; but the Day having arrived when all Candidates must apply, I beg to state, that with the Experience of a Year, and having in that Time, on the lowest Calculation, ridden 3,000 Miles in the Service of the Union, having dispensed much and some expensive Medicine, with an unlimited Allowance of Leeches to the Poor, and having given up about Two Thirds of my Time, I do not feel at all inclined to deviate from the Scale I last Week proposed, unless it be in favour of the Plan promulgated by an Individual of the Board, which gives a Mileage on the Extent of District. I beg to repeat that I am ready to accept the Office of Surgeon to the North Petherton District at $4\frac{1}{2}d.$ per Head on the gross Population of 1831, or on the other Scheme which includes the Mileage; and after the fullest Consideration which I can give the Subject, I am thoroughly convinced that no one can do Justice to the Poor, without making an immense Sacrifice, on lower Terms than these. As regards Midwifery, an Allowance of 20*s.* for each Case where the Midwife declares her Incompetency. I fear it will not be in my Power to appear before the Board To-day;

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To-day; but I wish again to state, that I adhere to my former Proposition of attending gratuitously on the Poor for a reasonable Time in case no Arrangement should take place To-day, or under any Circumstances that may otherwise deprive the Poor of Medical Relief.

(Signed) *Horatio N. Tilsley.*

From Mr. Young.

Gentlemen, 22d June.

I beg leave to offer myself as Candidate for the Middlezoy District of the Bridgwater Union. The extreme Distance from me being considerable, I think 40*l.* per Annum not more than an adequate Remuneration. Should you elect me, I will endeavour by strict Attention to the Duties of the Office to acquit myself to your Satisfaction.

Sir, 25th June.

I am willing to undertake the Duties of Medical Officer for the Middlezoy District at the Rate of 3¾*d.* per Head on the gross Population, as I specified in the Circular; with 1*l.* for each Case of Midwifery, provided that difficult ones only be sent, but if I am called to all, then I am ready to attend for 10*s.* per Case.

(Signed) *Joseph Addison.*

Sir, Huntshill, 22d June.

I beg to state that I am ready to undertake the Medical Care of the Poor of the Huntshill District at 4½*d.* per Head on the gross Population, as taken in the Year 1831. To convince you that I am legally qualified, I have sent in my Diplomas.

(Signed) *W. Lakin Caswell.*

Gentlemen, Bridgwater, 22d June.

I beg to offer my professional Services as Surgeon to the Bridgwater District, at 3*d.* per Head on the gross Population according to the last Census, a Fee of a Sovereign being required for each difficult Case of Midwifery; but if all Cases are attended by me indiscriminately, I would then take them at 10*s.* each. Also I wish the Board particularly to observe, that I could not offer my Services at so low a Rate as 3*d.* per Head were not my Duties mostly within so limited a Space, thereby enabling me to perform them without a Horse.

(Signed) *Abraham King.*

The Differences of Price are in consequence of the Difference of Distance they would have to travel, and so on?

Yes, I suppose so.

You stated just now that you yourself thought the Offer made was too low?

The Offer made in the Advertisement of the 22d of May.

Was it ever raised?

Oh yes, much higher, ultimately.

On the 16th of June the Board elected Two Medical Men to Two Districts?

Yes.

They elected them at the Price advertised on the 22d of May?

Yes.

There were no Tenders made for the other Districts?

No.

What Steps did the Board take in order to fill up those other Districts?

They issued another Advertisement, which is in Page 22 of the printed Papers, dated 17th of June, requesting Gentlemen to send in Tenders, and state the Sums for which they were willing to contract with the Board for Medical Relief. No Sums were fixed, but the Medical Men were requested to make Tenders.

They were requested to send in Tenders by the Date of the 23d?

Yes. The Letters which have been read must have been the Tenders which were sent in answer to that Advertisement.

On

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On receiving those Letters, what passed at the Board?
I have no Recollection of being present on the 23d.

It appears, from the Inspection of the Minute Book, that the Witness was not present.

You do not know whether any Persons were appointed on that Day to the remaining Five Districts?
Not of my own Knowledge.

There was another Meeting on the 14th of July for the Purpose of appointing?
Yes. I think I was from home then.

Was there no intermediate Meeting?
Yes; there was a Meeting every Week.

You know nothing of the Reasons which induced the Board finally to increase some of those Salaries before they were let?
I remember very well that I seconded the Motion on the 16th of June, that the Appointment of the remaining Medical Officers be postponed to this Day Week. I was exceedingly anxious to do, and I did, all I could to heal the Breach between the Guardians and the Medical Men; and in the meantime I found there was very little Chance of my succeeding, and it was inconvenient for me to attend on that Day. I did not go; and in consequence of that I know nothing of what was done.

The following Extract is read from the Minutes of the 23d of June 1837:

"Moved by Thomas Poole, Esquire, and seconded by Mr. James Somers, That the Clerk be directed to advertise in the Lancet, Medical Gazette, Morning Chronicle, Standard, Bristol Mirror, and Bath and Cheltenham Gazette Newspapers, for Medical Gentlemen to take charge of the Poor of the undermentioned Districts, at the Salaries affixed to each."

Probably you did not like the State into which the Board had got, of violent Discussions?
I take my Share of any Reproach that may fall upon the Board in that respect. I am quite certain we never intended to slight or insult the Medical Men. I was from home for a Month after that.

You do not know what induced the Guardians mainly to increase the Salaries beyond their advertised and previous Intention?
No. Perhaps I may be allowed to say, that I think, had it not been for this Meeting which the Medical Men at Bridgwater held to form an Association, it is exceedingly probable the Breach might have been healed, and we might have come to Terms with the Medical Men on the 16th of June. I was very anxious that Mr. Tilsley should be appointed to his own District. I thought him a very humane Man, and a Man of Talent; and I recollect going into an adjoining Room on the 16th of June to speak to him, and ask him whether he would leave himself in my Hands, and permit me to propose him to the Board, with such Salary as I thought right; and whether he would, if elected, accept the Appointment. He told me he was much obliged to me for the Offer, but, as he had joined a Medical Association, he did not feel himself at liberty to accept any Appointment without the Sanction of the Committee of Three Medical Men. I have no Doubt if I had proposed him the Board would have been ready to give him a somewhat higher Salary, and would have elected him.

Supposing that Course had been taken on the Receipt of the original Letter of the 2d of June, would not these unfortunate Disputes with the Medical Persons have been prevented?
I can scarcely answer that Question.

What is your Opinion?
I think that the Resolutions of the Association prevented the healing of the Breach on the 16th of June, more especially the Fourth. "Moved by Mr. King, and seconded by Mr. Poole, That this Meeting pledges itself not to accept any Appointment under the Poor Law Amendment Act without the Sanction of the Committee." So that any Gentleman who joined that Association was not a free

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a free Agent; and when I proposed to the Board to put Mr. Tilsley in nomination, they said to me, you must first of all give us a Pledge that Mr. Tilsley will accept the Appointment. I left the Room to ask him, and his Expression was, "I am sailing in the same Boat with the other Medical Men, and I cannot pledge myself to accept any Appointment without consulting them; and it is therefore useless for you to mention my Name to the Board." I returned to the Board, and stated that those Resolutions had foiled our good Intentions.

On a full Consideration, are you of opinion that the Medical Officers of that District are overpaid upon the now increased Salaries which have been given to them?

No, I do not think they are; I think they are very fairly paid.

Are they paid as much as they are paid in the neighbouring Unions?

They are paid more; and I should state that one Argument the Board continually urged for not increasing the Scale was, that all the neighbouring Unions paid only Three-pence a Head; and I felt the Force of that Argument. They said, "Why should we pay more than any other Unions in West Somerset." I found that the Scale laid down on the 22d of May was much the same as the Medical Men were paid in Taunton and the surrounding Districts.

Was any Dissatisfaction expressed in those surrounding Districts?

I had not heard of any at that Time, but since there has been so much Talk about the Bridgwater Case it has become universal.

Is there any thing in the Circumstances of the surrounding Districts, the Density of the Population, or any other Circumstance, that should enable them to perform the Duties at a lower Rate than the Bridgwater Union?

No, certainly not. If they could perform the Duties at 3*d.* a Head, I see no Reason why they should receive more in Bridgwater.

It is your Opinion that if they are adequately paid the Bridgwater Union must be too highly paid?

Yes. If the others are adequately paid, I do not think Bridgwater is too highly paid.

You have heard Complaints lately that they are underpaid?

Yes; that has been the Subject of Discussion in our Neighbourhood.

Did you ever inquire the Amount of Payments in Dorsetshire?

No. I have referred to the Second Report of the Commissioners, in which it is stated that in the surrounding Counties the Scale was higher than in Somersetshire; and therefore ours was a Scale that was met by the Argument, that in our own County, West Somerset, other Unions were paying the same Salaries we were, and therefore we ought not to raise ours.

Are not the Circumstances of Dorsetshire different in respect of Density of Population?

I know nothing of it but by passing through it; it is much more extended, no Doubt.

Have you ever been in Wiltshire?

Yes.

Some Parts of Wiltshire are very scattered?

Certainly.

Did the Board ever endeavour to ascertain what might be a proper Remuneration, by calculating what the additional Expense to a Medical Person would be in consequence of taking those Districts, and what would be left to him as actual Profits?

I can only speak as to the first Year; it was that Year I was a Member of the Committee; I must say, we were so much in the Dark in the Matter, we were guided very much by Mr. Weale, and I thought his Experience ought to enable us to judge what was a fair Remuneration. I do not know the Principles on which the Committee proceeded the Second Year, not being a Member of the Committee.

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Of course you would know that a Person who is in Practice, and used One Horse, would be obliged to increase the Quantity of Horseflesh for the Purpose of attending his Patients?
Yes, in a large District.

Would it not be necessary to take into your Consideration the Quantity of Medicines he dispenses to the Poor?
Yes; but then on the other hand the Appointments in our own Neighbourhood are frequently sought for, because it enables Medical Men to take Pupils, and to see a great deal of Practice they would not otherwise see.

Is there not another Reason, that it is to prevent other Medical Men coming in and depriving them of their Practice?
Certainly.

If a Gentleman is in considerable Business, and rides about upon his usual Practice, does not he call upon them in his Visits?
Yes; but in North Petherton I think Mr. Tilsley was obliged to have an additional Horse in consequence. If you take Mr. Addison's District, the Middlezoy District, that was much smaller; and I should say that no Second Horse would be necessary. I think indeed that District was on a higher Scale in proportion than the others.

Did you ever ascertain how far it was the Fact, that after paying their Expense they receive a Remuneration for their Time and Trouble?
It was impossible for me to find out what the Profit was; but I thought upon the 3*d.* a Head they were badly paid, seeing what Duties they performed; and that was the Reason I suggested that the Board should have a different Scale.

Do you think that they derive any Profit?
Yes; I think there must have been, or they would not have taken the District at all.

You do not think other Circumstances, that is, the additional Practice, and the Advantage in respect of Pupils, and the keeping other Persons out of their District, would have been sufficient?
No.

Most of those Gentlemen are young Men; are there any young Men who are come to take Districts in your Neighbourhood?
No, I think not; some are older Men. Mr. Phillips I think is an old Man who has been in Practice a great Number of Years; he was in Business before the Apothecaries Act. There was a great deal of Discussion about his Election.

Generally speaking they are very young Men?
Generally speaking they are. Mr. Baruch Toogood is a young Man; but he is a Man in very fair Practice.

He was in Partnership with his Father?
Yes.

May not a young Medical Man undertake the Charge of a District at a very insufficient Remuneration, but with a view to becoming known in his Profession, and to acquiring further Experience?
That is very possible, but I think that was not the Case with the Majority of our Medical Men; Mr. Tilsley, for example, for one, has been established for some Years; Mr. Phillips and Mr. Addison have been in Practice some Years; Mr. Abraham King has been in Practice for some Years; Mr. Baruch Toogood has been in very good Practice, but he is a young Man.

He has removed since?
Yes. Mr. Tilsley, Mr. Addison, Mr. Phillips, and Mr. King have all been in Practice for some Years; they are not new Comers, or Persons very anxious to get the Appointment for the Purpose of being brought into notice.

When receiving Letters from Medical Men, did you make Inquiries whether they were qualified both as Surgeons and Apothecaries?
No, not when we received Tenders. I seconded a Proposition some Time in

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May 1837, that every Medical Man in our Union should be both a Licenciate of the Apothecaries Company and a Member of the College of Surgeons, and stated my Grounds for the Motion, that I thought it of the utmost Importance that we should secure the very best Surgical and Medical Attendance for the Poor, and more particularly Surgical Attendance, because a Labourer is apt to meet with some Accident, and if he has not a good Surgeon to attend him he may be incapacitated for Life.

You were in a great Minority upon that Motion were you not?
I was in a Minority on the Motion, certainly. There was some Discussion at the Time; some Gentlemen said, that they thought it was not in accordance with the Principle of the Poor Law Amendment Act; that the Act implied that either an Apothecary or a Surgeon or a Physician was qualified to be a Medical Officer under that Act. At the Time I seconded the Resolution I had not read the Correspondence in the Second Report of the Commissioners. There is a long Correspondence there between the Board and the Apothecaries Company.

You do not consider any Person qualified to act as a general Practitioner in the Country who is not at the same Time both an Apothecary and Surgeon?
Yes; since my Attention has been more particularly drawn to the Act, I consider that either a Surgeon, a Physician, or an Apothecary is qualified to be a Medical Officer.

Do you mean the Poor Law Act?
Yes.

The Question is whether you consider a Man qualified to discharge his Duties as a general Practitioner in the Country unless he has become both an Apothecary and Surgeon?
I still think, as a general Principle, that it is most desirable that a Medical Officer should be both a Member of the College of Surgeons and a Licentiate of the Apothecaries Company, for the Reasons I have just stated, in order that we may secure the very best Medical and Surgical Attendance.

Can a Person who is only an Apothecary act with Propriety as a Surgeon?
I should not like to call in an Apothecary to perform a surgical Operation.

Does the Law require that a Man should have passed the College of Surgeons?
No.

Does not it stand to Reason, that a Person, in order to perform with Safety a Surgical Operation, must have a due Knowledge of Surgery?
Certainly.

Do you think that any Person who is merely a Surgeon is competent to prescribe as an Apothecary?
He is liable to Penalties under the Apothecaries Act.

In your Opinion is he competent?
I should not, in my own individual Case, consider a Man competent; that is to say, if my Family required the Advice of a Physician, I should not call in a Surgeon.

Do you not think that every Person who pretends to act as a Surgeon ought to be a Member of the College of Surgeons?
Yes, I think so; because then the Public would have a Guarantee that he has had a proper Education; but it is not necessary. I apprehend, according to Law, a Man may practise Surgery without being a Member of the College.

Your private Opinion is that the Law meant to restrain that?
What I said was, that if I employed a Surgeon myself I should rather have a Man to attend me whom I knew to be a Member of the College of Surgeons.

If that Proposition which you supported and which you seconded had been carried it would have excluded Mr. Phillips and Mr. Young, the one being a Member of the College of Surgeons, and not a Licentiate of the Apothecaries

Company, and the other a Licentiate of the Apothecaries Company, and not a Member of the College of Surgeons? *R. K. M. King, Esq.*

I have since been told it would; but at the Time I seconded this Proposition I had no Idea of either of them.

In what District does Mr. Young practise?
The Hill District.

If he had been excluded would there have been any other Medical Man in that District capable of being chosen so handy for the Paupers?
I believe not.

With respect to Mr. Phillips's District, if he had been excluded would there have been any other Medical Man in that District qualified to act?
No, I believe not.

Do you not think it is of more Advantage in many Cases that immediate Assistance should be given to the Person, than that rather more skilful Assistance should be given if it is to be fetched from a great Distance?
Certainly, if you have to go to a great Distance.

Do you suppose that if those Persons had not been chosen other competent Persons would not have been found?
I think not nearer than Bridgwater.

Would they not have come to establish themselves in those Districts?
I think not.

Therefore, to push the Argument a little further, if a Man were neither a Surgeon nor an Apothecary, if he lived in the District he might be employed?
No; I do not think the Board would have elected any one who was neither a Surgeon nor an Apothecary.

What Steps did you take, except seeing those Gentlemen's Certificates that they were Licentiates of the Apothecaries Company, or Members of the College of Surgeons, to ascertain whether they were supposed to have a sufficient Experience to undertake the Duty they contracted for?
They all produced a great Number of Testimonials from Surgeons and Practitioners in London and different Places, under whom they had been studying, whose Lectures they had attended; some from Sir Astley Cooper, others Sir Benjamin Brodie, and so on.

You were not present on the 14th of July?
I think not.

Did you ever see Mr. Ward's Testimonials?
No; I was not there when he was elected.

You know nothing with respect to his previous Practice or the Testimonials he had received?
No.

You are not a Relation of Mr. Abraham King?
No.

Do you remember a Person of the Name of Robert Kidner being committed by you as a Magistrate for neglecting his Wife and Family?
Perfectly well.

Did you at the Time take any Depositions in Writing?
I believe our Clerk did; he always did. Mr. Warry and Mr. Allen were present.

Do you recollect the Circumstances of the Case?
Yes; the Man lived in my Parish, and I knew him. The Case was this: He was charged with leaving his Family in the Workhouse; he ran away, and left them in the Workhouse, and the Case was very clearly proved. I consulted Mr. Warry and Mr. Allen, who were on the Bench, and proposed to make Three Offers to Kidner, which were these; first, that he should go back to the Workhouse, and there remain with his Wife and Family; if he did not like that, that he should go to the Workhouse and fetch out his Wife and Family, and bring

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them Home to Petherton, and if I found that he was using his best Endeavours to maintain them by his Labour, that if he could not wholly maintain them by his Labour I would myself make Application to the Board of Guardians for his Relief; and I held out a strong Hope that my Application would be acceded to; then, that if he adopted neither of these Offers that he should go to Gaol. Mr. Warry and Mr. Allen fully concurred in my making that Suggestion to him which I did. He turned round to a Man who was by his Side, a Man of the Name of Trott, who also lives in my Parish, and who is a most notorious Man, who had been then in Gaol Nineteen Times,—I saw him turn round and consult that Man, and, after speaking Two or Three Words to him, he said, "I will not do either of the other Things; I will go to Gaol." I said, "Well, we think you a great Fool for so doing; but if you will not accept either of the other Things you must go to Gaol."

You knew the Man well?

Yes, for he was a most notorious Character; he was always in Liquor. Some Three or Four Months before that a Neighbour of mine came up to ask my Wife for some broken Victuals for Kidner's Wife, saying she was very ill, also asking me to try to get some Relief from the Board of Guardians. Hearing she was very ill, I went and called upon her. I saw her lying upon Straw, with every Mark of the most squalid Poverty; a Neighbour was at her Bed-side, and on the other Side a little Cup of Milk and Water. I asked her whether she had been in that State long. She said, "I have been working as long as I can to sustain my Children; as long as I had Health I did all I could do, but not a single Farthing can I get from my Husband; I am starving, and he has been for some some Time earning Wages of a Farmer in the Parish, and has never brought me a single Shilling since I have been in this State." I could scarcely believe the Story. I said, "Your Husband must be a Brute!" The Neighbour sitting by said it was all perfectly true; that she (Kidner) had been maintaining the Family, and doing the best she could for them, but that the Father sets them a very bad Example, and treats her like a Brute; that she was at the Point of Starvation. I gave the other Woman Money to purchase Necessaries, and said, "I will go to the Board at the next Meeting, and represent your Case, and I have no Doubt you will get Relief." I went to Mr. Tilsley, the Medical Officer, in the meantime, to know whether her Statement was correct; she said she had a Blister on at the Time; he said the Woman's Story was perfectly correct, and that as far as he could understand her Case it was a Case almost of Starvation; that the Woman was left without the Necessaries of Life, owing to the Husband's bad Conduct, notwithstanding his Earnings were considerable. I represented the Case to the Board of Guardians, and they immediately ordered Relief. I think it was a Part of their Order that the Husband's Wages might be attached. When that was done I think I then went to the Master, and ascertained that the Woman's Story was true. I have since seen the Woman; she has been in the Workhouse almost from the Time of her Husband deserting her. I saw her Five or Six Weeks ago, and she said, "for God's Sake do not ever let me go out of the Workhouse, I am quite happy here; but if I go home to my Husband, he will starve me, as he did before."

Was Kidner an able-bodied Man?

Yes.

What were the Wages he was earning?

He was earning the usual Wages of our Neighbourhood, which are very low, 7*s.* a Week; but I have had Reason to believe that he never brought home any thing; and I believe it is from the bad Example he has set his Family they have turned out so badly; the eldest Boy has been in Prison several Times, and is there now on a Charge of Housebreaking.

The Board ordered her into the Workhouse on your Representation?

They ordered Relief in the first instance, and that his Wages should be attached; that went on for some Time, and the Medical Officer attending her. At last the Landlord said, "You cannot afford to pay the Rent, and must leave the House;" she then said, "Will you take us into the Workhouse?" We took them in, and this Man ran away from the Workhouse.

He was taken into the Workhouse?

Yes.

Did

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Did Kidner ever work for you?
No.

Could he earn the same Rate of Wages that others could earn?
Yes; the Wages in our Neighbourhood are 7*s.*; but then they get Cider; they are great Cider Drinkers in our Neighbourhood.

In point of fact they were not driven into the Workhouse by any Refusal of Relief?
Not the least.

Do you know what Relief they had received before they were taken into the House?
I find he applied for Relief on the 25th of November 1836, but I have not got the Amount; that he applied again on the 6th of December, and on the 13th of December they came into the Workhouse; that I think was when the Landlord of the Cottage turned him out.

You do not know when they received Relief on the first Occasion?
I remember they received Relief on my Application; that was in November.

How long have the Wages been so low as 7*s.* a Week?
Ever since I can remember.

Have the Wages increased since the Introduction of the new Poor Law?
No, I believe not.

Have they not rather decreased?
No; they have been quite stationary. It is because they have not increased I have in many Instances urged the sending able-bodied Paupers who come to our Board for Relief into the Workhouse, for the Purpose of inducing the Farmers to raise the Rate of Wages.

Has that succeeded in doing so?
It has never been tried to any Extent. Some of the Farmer Guardians, I believe, thought it hard in me to urge them to go in, and very few able-bodied Paupers have gone.

Have not the Prices of Agricultural Produce increased?
Yes, lately.

Without any corresponding Increase of Wages?
Yes. I have often told the Farmer Guardians at their Meetings that I was quite sure it never could be the Intention of the Act to put the whole of the Money they had gained into their own Pockets, which they have done; for they have put the Money saved for Rates into their Pockets, and not raised the Rate of Wages.

There are a good many Shopkeepers in your Neighbourhood?
Only in Bridgwater. I speak of my own Parish of Petherton; there are 4,000 Inhabitants in North Petherton who are all Agriculturists.

How much in fact have you saved on the Assessment?
I cannot speak to the whole Union, but I can to my own Parish: The first Year we saved 600*l.*; and I made very particular Inquiries among the Poor that Year, and ascertained that the old and infirm were far better taken care of than before.

Do you know the whole Amount of your Assessment for that Parish?
The average annual Assessment is 2,369*l.* Many old People in that Parish have come to me, and expressed their great Gratitude for what had been done for them, for that their Relief had been greater than it was before, although our Expenditure was very great. A Person who was old and infirm got only 2*s.* a Week, and that indeed only at uncertain Times, for the Overseer, instead of paying them weekly, allowed it continually to go into arrear; now they get 2*s.* 6*d.* a Week, and get it regularly every Week.

Supposing the Board of Guardians had given a Salary to the Medical Officer of North Petherton equal to that at last given, instead of confining themselves

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to the Sum at first proposed, what Increase would that have made to your Rates in Petherton?

The Difference in Salary was only about Ten or Twelve Pounds; but that does not all belong to our Parish.

How much of that would belong to your Parish?

I suppose about Three Quarters; ours is by far the largest Parish, and I think the District embraces about Three other Parishes.

If those additional 10*l.* or 12*l.* had been given by the whole District, the Diminution of Saving, in your Parish, would be as 10*l.* to 600*l.*?

Yes.

North Petherton, you say, is a very large Parish; have you any and what Reason to know that the smaller Parishes have obtained an equal Diminution in their Rates?

No; from what I have heard the Guardians say at the Board, it has been somewhat less. I believe we have gained more than other Parishes, but the great Majority have gained, though not to the same Extent.

Have you heard any Complaint, that, though there may have been a Saving in the Relief of the Poor, that is swelled up by the Expenses?

I never heard of any such Complaint, except that my Neighbour, Sir John Slade, lives in a small Parish where there are not above Half a Dozen Families, and One or Two Paupers; he said that his Rates were increased, because he had to pay a Share of the Establishment Charges, and that it cost him more than it did before. I believe there are only Two Paupers in the Parish.

Do you know how much more it cost him?

I cannot say; it was very trifling. The accompanying Paper will show.

Account of Money expended by each Parish for Year ending Midsummer 1837.

(A.)

Bridgwater Union.

Parishes.	Average Annual Assessment.	Total Amount of Money expended for the Year ending Midsummer 1837.		
	£	£	s.	d.
Bridgwater	2,916	1,888	0	2½
Chedzoy	451	284	19	2¾
Wembdon	202	163	3	9¼
Durleigh	138	99	10	1⅝
Chilton Trinity	55	36	3	9½
Cannington	772	499	11	6¼
Ashcott	156	135	13	10
Grenton	89	32	14	10¼
Moorlinch	70	52	19	3¼
Shapwick	165	121	19	0
Catcott	168	125	3	7¾
Edington	146	108	18	3
Chilton Polden	187	96	13	5¼
Cossington	134	83	19	3½
Woolavington	232	150	7	3¾
Puriton	146	131	12	5¾
Pawlett	221	135	13	7¼
Huntspill	661	452	18	1½
Bawdrip	124	71	19	0
Sutton Mallett	89	48	18	9
Stawell	97	63	10	1½
Middlezoy	157	129	16	8
Othery	326	137	10	7
Lyng	166	137	5	8¼
Goathurst	280	116	14	8½
Broomfield	433	265	14	9½

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Parishes.	Average Annual Assessment.	Total Amount of Money expended for the Year ending Midsummer 1887.
	£	£ s. d.
Thurloxton	68	33 16 4½
Michael Church	6	6 16 0¾
Westonzoyland	429	262 19 9¼
North Petherton	2,369	1,696 12 10¼
Fiddington	87	70 4 8
Edstock and Beer	21	23 13 7
Stockland Bristol	102	61 7 8½
Otterhampton	182	86 1 7
Charlinch	204	156 10 11
Enmore	186	144 12 1¼
Spaxton	601	238 9 4½
Asholt	95	70 2 11¾
Over Stowey	147	105 6 11
Nether Stowey	309	146 5 11¼
Total	13,387	8,674 12 11

* Robert Underdown, Clerk.

Do you consider that this Parish, in which there are only Two Paupers, required the Introduction of the new Poor Law?

I think small Parishes must contribute with others; I think it would have been very unwise to have left out that small Parish.

What may have been the Population of that Parish in which there were but Two Paupers?

I do not know; the Parish consists of very few Fields; I should think not Half a Dozen Families. It happens to be a very small Parish, within the Bounds of North Petherton; and there is a little Chapel of Ease.

In this well-managed Parish One Third of the Inhabitants are Paupers?

I mention that as being the only Complaint I have heard, and I think that was made more in Joke than any thing else. I have never heard of any other small Parish complaining that their Expenses had been increased rather than diminished.

Is it not your Opinion that this increasing Expense which fell upon the small Parish arose entirely from the Expense incurred in the Erection of Poorhouses, and that after that Expense was paid off the Expense of that Parish would be less than it was before?

Yes, I should think it would. The Expense must have been exceedingly small at all Times; but I should say there is no Reason it should not be rather less than before.

Small Parishes being called on to contribute with other Parishes to the Erection of Poorhouses, an extra Expense has been laid upon them?

Yes; they had no Workhouse of their own, being so small a Parish, which they could turn into Money, and which would have helped them to bear their Share of the Expense.

They did not want a Workhouse?

No; because they have no Paupers in the Workhouse at present.

You state that in a Parish consisting of about Six Families Two of them are Paupers?

I do not even know that Two are Paupers; I am by no means certain that there is more than One; I know they have One, because in turning over the Names of the Parishes when I have come to the Parish of Michael Church I think there is only One Pauper mentioned.

Do you know the Amount your Parish paid for the Erection of Workhouses last Year?

The Workhouse has been erected during the last Year. I do not know the Proportion.

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Proportion. I know the Parishioners have calculated that the Sale of the old Workhouse would amply pay their Proportion of the Expense of the Erection of the new one.

You say you saved 600*l.* the first Year?
Yes.

That would be independent of your Quota towards the Workhouse?
Yes. We must have paid something towards it, because it was begun before the End of the first Year.

Was it indemnified by the Sale of the old Workhouse?
It is not sold at present; we think of letting it; we think we shall receive 30*l.* a Year for it.

Who will receive the Rent; the Parish or the Union?
That will go to the Parish.

To return to Kidner's Case; when he was brought before you as a Magistrate did he state any Reason for having left the Workhouse?
No, I do not think he did.

Did he complain of the Workhouse in any respect?
No; he certainly did not complain of any Ill-usage. My Impression is, that he said he went out to look for Work.

Did he state where he went to?
No; he did not say where he had been.

Did he speak of having been ill kept in the Workhouse in any respect?
No, certainly not.

Did he say that he left it in consequence of being afraid of catching the Diarrhœa?
No, certainly not.

Was there any Diarrhœa in the House at that Time?
It was in March 1837. I think there was. I was not in the habit of visiting the Bridgwater Workhouse, having a Workhouse at Petherton which was used; but I think there was Diarrhœa there at that Time.

Turn to Page 78, and look at the Note at the Bottom and also at the Top of the Page?
I believe if the Author of that Pamphlet, Mr. Bowen, had happened to know that Mr. Allen had joined in the Commitment that Paragraph would never have appeared.

Why so?
Because Mr. Allen has always taken very much the same View of the Poor Law Administration Mr. Bowen has done; and I think if he had known that his (Allen's) Name had been coupled with Mr. Warry's and my own, it is very likely he would not have made that Accusation; and it is quite clear that Mr. Allen forgot that he had committed the Man, for when the Subject was considered at the Board on a subsequent Day, on which I was not present, he was making some Observations, and Mr. Warry showed him the Commitment with his own Name attached to it, which he appeared to have forgotten; and he said he was very sorry that he had joined in committing him.

Do you conceive that Mr. Bowen takes his Opinions from Mr. Allen; that he is incompetent to judge for himself?
I think he is quite able to judge for himself.

He is a very able Man?
Yes.

And a very respectable Man?
I think it is rather unfair in Mr. Bowen to have made the Allusions he has to Mr. Warry and myself as Magistrates. I should not have acted so if I had been in his Situation.

Are you sure that Kidner was earning 7*s.* a Week?
Yes; from all the Inquiries I made.

Did

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Did you learn that from his Master?
Yes. I think I did.

His Wife did not tell you, did she?
I heard it from several Persons. I am quite sure that the Wife told me so. I am quite satisfied that he was earning 7*s.* a Week. Part of the Wages were attached.

He told you he would rather go to Prison?
Yes.

Do you happen to know whether the Provision is better or worse in the Prison than in the Workhouse?
I do not know at this Moment.

Did you ever hear it was better than in the Workhouse?
No.

Do you think that when he was receiving 7*s.* a Week Wages, and 4*s.* a Week Allowance, that was sufficient to maintain him and his Wife and Family, consisting of Five Children?
I know that a great Number of Labourers in our Parish do maintain themselves upon that Sum. I confess it appears to me very small indeed, and I have often wondered how they could maintain themselves upon that Sum.

You have said that Part of his Wages were attached; what did you mean by that; had he the full Benefit of those Wages, or not?
When the Board of Guardians relieved his Wife and Family they got him to refund out of his Wages a Part of that Relief; there was an Order made by the Board that the Relieving Officer should go to the Master, and tell him that the Board of Guardians had allowed so much to the Wife and Family of Kidner, and that the Master was to pay a certain Portion into the Relieving Officer's Hands, which I believe was done; and I suppose the Master got Kidner to assent.

Then in that Case he did not get 11*s.* a Week?
He himself did not; then the Money allowed by the Board was paid into the Hands of the Woman.

In point of fact, for the Maintenance of the Father, Mother, and Five Children, there was but the 7*s.* a Week?
I do not think that the Wages were attached for the whole Sum.

For what Part of it were they attached?
I cannot recollect.

Was the whole Sum allowed 4*s.* a Week?
I cannot carry that in my Mind.

At what Time did you mean to say that Part of his Wages were attached; before he went into the Workhouse, or since he has gone out and left his Wife and Family?
Before he went into the Workhouse.

How much of that 7*s.* which you suppose him to have received was attached?
I really do not know without referring to the Relieving Officer's Books.

If you think that the 11*s.* was only sufficient to support his Family, if he had only 7*s.* he must have been in Circumstances of great Distress?
He must.

How then could you think of giving him Part, and then taking back another Part?
I suppose a Shilling a Week was taken back, or something of that Kind, till the whole was discharged.

Did he in any way consent that this should be allowed to his Wife as a Loan to him, and that his Wages should be attached?
I do not think he did. It was I who made the Application on the Part of the Wife. My Impression is, that the Relieving Officer was ordered to go to the Master of the Labourer to tell him what we had done, and to get him to

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make an Arrangement that Kidner should refund a certain Part of his Wages to repay the Loan.

If any Consent was obtained for that it was obtained from the Relieving Officer?
Yes, I suppose so; from him or the Master.

What was the Name of the Relieving Officer?
Chinn.

Have you any Doubt that he came with his Wife and Family into the Workhouse in consequence of finding himself uncomfortable on the Allowance he received?
He came there as a Place of Shelter; the Landlord turned them out, and they had no Place to go to; and I think when first they came in it was by Order from the Overseer, having no Shelter.

He did not come by his own Choice, but from Necessity?
He came in, having an Order from the Overseer; having no Place to go to.

At the Time he came in he was dissatisfied, and he got away as soon as he could, and left his Wife and Family there?
He ran away.

Where is he now?
The last Time I saw him was about Five Weeks ago in Petherton, about Five o'Clock in the Evening; he was walking along the Road so drunk he could hardly stand. I do not know for whom he is working.

Does the Parish receive any Money from him now for the Support of his Family?
No, certainly not; the Parish consider him incorrigible, and let him go where he will.

His Wife and Family are in the Workhouse?
Yes, they were, Five Weeks ago, and I believe are now.

At what Charge per Head are they there?
I think for a grown Person, an Adult, it is 2*s.* 6$\frac{3}{4}$*d.* per Head per Week. I think altogether it amounts to 3*s.* 4*d.* or 3*s.* 6*d.*, including Clothing and every thing.

How much for a Child?
I forget.

You stated that Kidner brought his Wife home no Part of his Wages?
She told me so, and the Neighbours corroborated that.

That induced you to make the Application to the Board?
Certainly. I saw the Woman was in great Distress indeed, and that through no Misconduct of hers.

The Board ordered Relief?
Yes.

Did you ever make Inquiry afterwards how far the Man continued in that Practice of not bringing home any Part of his Wages to his Wife?
No, I did not; for it was very shortly after that that they went into the Workhouse—in less than a Month after that,—about a Fortnight or Three Weeks, probably.

You have stated that before that Illness she had maintained her Family?
She told me so herself.

Do you know what she earned?
I suppose she earned about the usual Wages of Women, which is varying from 8*d.* to 10*d.* a Day.

Was she working as an Agricultural Labourer?
Yes; and I have heard many Farmers speak of her as a hard-working Woman; and perhaps One or Two of her Children got 2*d.* or 3*d.* a Day.

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She did not complain as long as she was well?
No. She said, "If it pleases God to give me my Health I will struggle on, though he does not bring me a Farthing."

Supposing her to be in good Health, and that the Husband had brought home the 7*s.* a Week, joined to what she could have earned herself, would that Family have been worse off than the Generality of Families in that Neighbourhood?
Certainly not; they would have been better off than many.

You were Vice Chairman of the Board of Guardians in the Month of October 1836?
Yes.

Do you recollect a Letter from Mr. Abraham King, the Surgeon of the Bridgwater District, being read on the 25th of October, respecting the Alteration of the Diet in the Workhouse?
No, I do not recollect; I do not think I was present. The original Letter appears set out in Page 31. of the printed Papers; but I recollect nothing about it.

Did you attend the Board during the Existence of the Diarrhœa?
Yes; I was there very constantly at that Time, and I heard the Subject often mentioned. Sometimes it was said there was Diarrhœa, and then probably the next Week there would be Reports that the Inmates were much more healthy; and so it varied from Time to Time. In fact on One or Two Occasions I went over the House, though I was not in the habit of visiting that House, as I was Visitor of the North Petherton; sometimes I found a vast Number of Patients ill, and probably the next Time there were a very few ill.

Do you know of any Applications of Mr. Abraham King on the Subject of the Diarrhœa, previous to this Letter of the 25th of October?
No, I do not.

Do you know that there were none?
What I heard regarding the Diarrhœa was principally in Conversation. I think there was nothing came officially to the Board. I do not remember any official Report of the Surgeon.

You say you know more of North Petherton Workhouse than you do of the Bridgwater?
Yes; I constantly visited that, as I live in the Parish.

Was the Diarrhœa in that Workhouse?
Certainly not; I do not think there was a single Case of Diarrhœa commencing there. There were a great many Children removed to that Workhouse, after they had been suffering from Diarrhœa, by the Medical Men of Bridgwater. Several of them died after they came into that Workhouse; others recovered; but I think I can say confidently not a single Case of Diarrhœa originated there.

Do you know whether any Children who had the Measles in the North Petherton Workhouse had had the Diarrhœa in the Bridgwater, or not?
Yes; I think I heard the Matron say that several of the Children appeared to have quite a Complication of Disorders.

Did you hear any Complaints of the Inmates of North Petherton Workhouse of the Gruel?
Not at all; they appeared perfectly satisfied. I have gone over the House when they have been at their Meals, and have conversed with them. The Dietary was precisely the same at Petherton as at Bridgwater during the Time that the Diarrhœa was prevailing there.

Do you remember the Name of Harriet Binden?
Yes.

Was she ill?
Yes; she was in Bed.

Did she complain to you?
Not the least; on the contrary, she expressed great Gratitude for the Attention she had received. I asked her whether there was any thing I could do to make

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make her more comfortable. I saw her Two or Three Times. The first Time I saw her she was labouring under ulcerated sore Throat; she said she should like a little Honey and Vinegar; the Matron said, "She had none, but she supposed there could be no Objection to it;" and I sent her some; and I put the same Question to her at other Times. She said, "She was perfectly comfortable, but that she should like to see One of her Children; she thought she was dying; that she should be more comfortable to have her Children about her; and she had asked the Matron to apply to the Governor, and he thought, of his own Accord, he could not give an Order for the Child to be allowed to go to her." I said, "I would undertake the Child should be sent to her," which he was in a Day or Two, and she thanked me for it.

Will you refer to her Deposition in Page 29 of the printed Papers, and state whether that is a fair Statement of the Circumstances referring to Harriet Binden?

Yes, I believe that is perfectly correct. I do not think she ever said any thing to me about Tea and Sugar; she often expressed herself grateful, and said the Matron was very kind to her.

Do you know whether in that Case what was ordered by the Doctor, and was not sent immediately from the Bridgwater Union, Mrs. Ellis supplied out of her own Stores, and replaced?

Yes, I know in many Cases she did do that; and I am sure that if Tea and Sugar were wanted she would let her have them. She expressed herself very thankful for the Attention she received several Times, and I know the Matron was very kind to her. She mentions, I see, about the Child being sent to her; and I know that it was sent. I think I wrote to the Governor that same Day to beg he would send out the Child immediately.

That was Govier?

Yes.

Is he the Governor now?

No.

There was a visiting Committee of the Workhouse, was there not?

Yes.

Did they make their Report in a Book?

Yes; that was read every Day at the Meeting of the Board.

Had you no verbal Communications with the Members of the Visiting Committee?

I have heard Members of the Visiting Committee sometimes say there was a good deal of Diarrhœa in the House, and perhaps on the next Board Day the same Gentlemen might say we are happy to say the House is in a much better State. It varied a great deal. There was always a great deal of Disease, I have heard, in that House, before the Union. I do not think the House is in a healthy Situation; it lies low.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Robert Weale, Esq.

ROBERT WEALE Esquire is called in, and examined as follows:

YOU are One of the Assistant Poor Law Commissioners?

I am.

What is your District?

Somersetshire, the larger Part of Worcestershire, and the larger Part of Gloucestershire.

The Bridgwater Union is of course within your District?

It is. I formed the Union.

At the Time the Union was formed did you give any Directions to that Board with respect to the Division of their Union into Districts for Medical Attendance, and with respect to the Remuneration to be given to the Medical Officers?

I advised a Committee to be appointed to divide the Union into Districts, and that the Scale of Remuneration should be at the Rate of Three-pence

per

Robert Weale, Esq.

per Head upon the whole Union; of course telling the Guardians they would make a Difference in those Districts where the Population was more dense to what they would where the Population was more scattered.

On what Principle did you fix Three-pence a Head?
On first starting I recommended the System of advertising for Tenders; the Medical Gentlemen complained of that System as being derogatory of their Profession; and I stated that as soon as I could ascertain the proper Rate of Remuneration I should be happy to adopt another Plan. In forming the Union of Clutton, which is also in the County of Somerset, and a Union where there is no large Town at all, and also a Union where there are a considerable Number of Coal Mines, Medical Gentlemen of high Repute in that Part of the Country addressed a Letter to the Board of Guardians, stating the Terms on which they were willing to undertake the Medical Attendance, and upon that Letter it was I fixed the Sum per Head, and also, upon referring to other Districts, finding that that agreed with the Sums previously paid by the Parishes.

Is that the Letter you refer to?
It is.

Where is the Union of Clutton?
It is between Bristol and Wells.

Is that a densely populated Country?
It is not.

Do the People reside in Villages close together?
Yes; the Villages are generally pretty close together.

Have the goodness to read that Letter to which you have referred?

The same is read, and is as follows:

Gentlemen, Chilcompton, March 1836.

From your Advertisement we see you require a Tender of the Terms for Medical and Surgical Attendance on the Poor of the respective Districts of the Clutton Union. We, as Candidates for the Appointment of Surgeons to the Midsomer Norton District, beg to suggest the following Scale. The Midsomer Norton District contains a Population of 6,869; we consider that only Half that Number as coming into the Cognizance of the Enactments of the "Poor Law Bill," thus, 3,430 may be expected to fall within the Range of the Medical Man's Liability; the Casualties also of this District, being entirely a coaling one, may be expected to be more numerous and of a more desperate Character than can be the Case in an Agricultural District. With these Views we would name the small Sum of 6*d.* a Head, making the Amount for One Year's Attendance 85*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.* Now, as the Contingencies in this District have on several Occasions been many, and severe Cases, the same may occur again; and feeling that it cannot be the Wish of either the Guardians or Commissioners that Medical Men should be Losers by the Medical Care of the Poor, we would leave it to the Pleasure of the Board to name what Sum, in addition to the above, they may think proper.

We are,
Your obedient Servants,
Flower and *Leach.*

To the Guardians of the Clutton Union.

P.S.—We trust these Terms will not be considered too high. Should this Arrangement not meet your Approbation, any Alteration you may think it right to make will be satisfactory to us; and if you place that Confidence in us to give us the Appointment, you may depend on a conscientious Discharge of the Duties of the Situation.

Were those Men of Eminence?
Yes; Mr. Flower is considered a Man of very great Eminence.

Not young Men?
No; he is One of the most distinguished Medical Men of that District.

What do you conceive he means by Sixpence a Head?
Sixpence a Head upon the Half Population; which comes to 85*l.*, which is his Tender.

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It is upon this you recommended Three-pence a Head?
Yes; and also from the Fact that that was the Rate in many Districts where the Unions had been previously formed, and where they had gone upon the System of Tender. If Three-pence a Head was satisfactory on a District which was a Coal District, and where there was no Town, I conceived it would be a satisfactory Arrangement with the Medical Men in the Bridgwater Union.

Has it been found a satisfactory Arrangement?
Certainly not. In the Bridgwater District, and in some of the neighbouring Districts, they have this Year made Advances, but in the Majority of Instances they are continuing at that Rate now.

Upon the whole has that Scale been found to answer the Purpose of obtaining proper Persons to attend the Poor, and of affording to those Persons a Remuneration for their Attendance?
In the Union of Taunton, an adjoining Union, where the Salaries were the same, this Year we had several Medical Men offering themselves at those Salaries.

Have Messrs. Flower and Leach continued their Services for that District upon those Terms?
Up to the present Time.

Have they got Assistants who help them in performing the Duties?
There are Two Partners; I do not know whether they have Assistants; the Duties are very satisfactorily performed, both to the Board of Guardians and to the Poor.

Who is the Chairman of that Union?
Captain Scobell.

Have there been any Complaints in the Union, of which this is One of the Districts, of the Scale of Remuneration for Medical Relief?
I have heard of none in that District. I would also take the Liberty of observing, that at the Time Messrs. Flower and Leach's Tender was made there was no Union Workhouse at all to be made use of, therefore every Case must necessarily be attended at the Residence of the Poor; I believe within the last Week or Two the new Workhouse has been occupied, but up to that Time they had no Workhouse.

Were the Inhabitants of that District within a very small Circuit?
No. I can state the farthest Distance of any Pauper from any Medical Man in the Union, but not in the District.

Of course Remuneration must depend very much upon how far a Man had to travel?
It must. The District referred to is nearly on the Borders of the Mendip Hills, and is as difficult a District as any one can be. I bore that in Mind, and thought that if Three-pence a Head was a fair Remuneration for that District it would be an ample Remuneration for others where they had not a Liability to the same Accidents which they have here.

It is a Coal Country?
It is.

They were paid 10*s.* a Case in Midwifery besides?
Yes; in all my Districts they were paid that.

Have you inquired out of your District what is the general Amount of Remuneration to the Medical Officers?
No; I did not feel it to be necessary to do so. I have not been out of my District for Three Years except a very few Weeks, and then only in consequence of domestic Affliction.

How far is any Part of Dorsetshire from Bridgwater?
I suppose about Twenty-five or Thirty Miles.

You have never inquired what the Scale of Remuneration is in that District?
Never.

You are not aware of it?
No.

What Part of Gloucestershire is in your District?
All the Clothing Part, and indeed the whole, with the Exception of the Hills bordering on Oxfordshire.

In consequence of this it was that the Guardians of the Bridgwater Board fixed the first Salaries from June 1836 to June 1837?
Yes.

Had they been in the habit, in the Clutton District, of contracting for Medical Relief before the new Poor Law System came into operation?
Yes, generally, in all the Parishes.

What Reference had you to the Scale of Payment previous to the new Poor Law System coming into operation?
In the Clutton District, previous to the new Poor Law, the Payment was $2\frac{3}{4}d.$ upon the whole Union, and afterwards it was $3d.$ per Head upon the whole Union.

Did that include Fractures?
It included every thing. I put the Question to the Overseers, the Amount they paid for Medical Relief?

Were the Midwifery Cases included?
They were included in the $2\frac{3}{4}d.$, but not in my Scale.

Must not a higher Scale be taken for a larger District if a Medical Man should require additional Horse Hire?
Yes; and therefore this District being a more difficult District than any within my Reach I thought I was safe in taking that as a Guide to go by, for I think there was as much riding, and as hilly a Country, and more so, than the Part of Somersetshire in which Bridgwater is situate, where the Roads are better, and not so hilly.

Where an additional Horse is kept must not there be a greater Consumption of Time in consequence of the Extent of the District?
Yes.

Upon the whole you think that this Midsomer Norton District was a fair District to calculate on, taking it as an average District?
I did, and more so; taking also as a Guide the Average of the Amounts paid previous to the Formation of the Union, which Averages I took before coming to that Conclusion. I found the Amount of the average Sum paid previous to the Union was greater in Somersetshire than that fixed by me, according to the Returns made to me. I take those Returns as an Answer to the Question put to the Overseers of the several Parishes: "State the Amount of your Medical Contract for the last Year, if any, and the Amount paid for extra Medical Attendance, separately stated." I find that on comparing Somersetshire previous to the Union, taking the whole County, the Average was $3d.$ per Head; since then the Average is $2\frac{3}{4}d.$; but then in one Case the Midwifery Cases are included and in the other they are not, therefore they are much about the same.

How did the Case stand before the Poor Law Union came into operation with respect to many Paupers being in the Workhouse or not?
There are more in the Workhouses under the new Poor Law than under the old, therefore the Trouble to the Medical Man would be less.

Is it true that One Half the Population would be subject to Medical Relief?
No; I consider that above the Mark. I wished to take that as furnishing Data to do away with the Tender System, which the Medical Men considered as degrading to their Profession.

Did you apply to the Board of Commissioners in London to know what Remuneration they thought a fair one for Medical Relief?
I did not. I believe it was almost one of the first Objects of the Commissioners to break down the System of advertising for Tenders, when a more satisfactory System could be substituted. The Commissioners approved the Plan I adopted,

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I adopted, and we thought in the course of a Year or Two we should see whether that was a fair Amount of Remuneration.

That was the Scale on which the Arrangement was made for the Year from June 1836 to June 1837 in the Bridgwater Union?

Exactly. I did not satisfy myself by taking Somersetshire alone as my Guide. I found that the Amount paid in my Part of Gloucestershire previous to the Union being formed was $2\frac{1}{2}d.$ per Head; now it is $2\frac{1}{4}d.$; in Somersetshire it was $3d.$, and now $3\frac{3}{4}d.$; and in Worcestershire I find it was $3\frac{1}{4}d.$, and it is now $2\frac{3}{4}d.$

Are those upon the gross Populations?

I got the Amount in every Union, and have calculated it, applying it to the Number.

In fact you have diminished the Expenses of Medical Attendance since the Union?

Yes, to a small Extent.

Would there be any Reduction including the Midwifery Cases?

To a very small Extent.

Were they not considered very low before?

I do not know; but I have considered those with reference to the Calculation of $3d.$ per Head. In the Taunton Union, where I have fixed it at $3d.$ per Head, a Medical Gentleman writes to me to know whether the Arrangement is permanent, because he is willing to take Two Districts at $50l.$ less than they have been taken at. I did not think that was right towards the Professional Men, and I did not recommend to the Guardians to take the Offer.

Is that a Gentleman in established Practice?

Yes; a Gentleman who had previously attended several Parishes.

Will you read the Letter?

The same was read as follows:

Dear Sir, Taunton, 16th November.

I trust you will pardon the Liberty I am taking, by wishing you to inform me if the Medical Gentlemen are elected annually in the several Divisions of the Taunton Union, and if so, if they are permitted to offer Tenders for each Division of the same. Having had the largest Parish in the Union, with Four others, prior to the new Poor Law System taking place, I should now be happy to devote the whole of my Attendance to all the Paupers in Two of the Divisions, for $50l.$ per Annum less than what is now given to the Two Medical Men, and provide an adequate Security for proper Attendance to the same. With regard to Character and Attentions to the Poor in the Parishes which I have already attended, I can only refer to the Guardians of them; and beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

Robert Rendell.

Has that Gentleman taken any of the Districts?

He has not. I did not feel myself at all called upon, on receiving his Letter, to recommend that he should be applied to; I did not think the Salaries too high.

They were let from Year to Year?

Yes.

Were they always let to the same Persons, or was it open to others?

It was open to others.

If this Gentleman could afford to do it for $50l.$ a Year less, why did not he put that $50l.$ into his Pocket by offering?

I do not know; I did not push the Gentleman forward, and he never did offer himself.

If he was correct in that, and could do it for $50l.$ a Year less than other Persons, do you know any Reason why he did not offer to take any of those Districts?

He had been a Candidate the first Year, but the Gentlemen once in Practice, and

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and who give Satisfaction to the Union, are not often changed, unless there is some Ground for so doing. It is not always the Practice to advertise for fresh Medical Gentlemen. Previous to the End of the Year Letters are often written to the Gentlemen who are in attendance, to know whether they will continue their Attendance. I believe there was an Election this Year in the Taunton Union, in consequence of a Resignation.

Did this Gentleman make any Offer in consequence of that Resignation?
I cannot say.

Is he a Gentleman residing at Taunton, and in Business there?
Yes.

Did you make Inquiries respecting his Character?
I heard he was in Practice, and attending several Parishes, and that he was a respectable Man. I do not mean to say he is in the first Walk of the Profession; but I believe he is a very respectable Man.

Are you aware that when those Salaries were fixed Complaints were made by the Medical Persons to the Chairman of the Board of Guardians and others respecting the Insufficiency of those Salaries?
I have heard so since the Medical Pamphlet has been published, but I have had no Conversation with the Medical Gentlemen. I was present at a Meeting at Bridgwater when they stated that they considered their Salaries too low.

Can you state when that was?
The 23d of June 1837.

Had you heard any Objection previous to that?
I had heard that the Board of Guardians and the Medical Men could not agree.

Had you heard, previous to the 22d of May 1837, that Complaint had been made by the Medical Officers to any of the Guardians, in respect of the Insufficiency of their Remuneration?
I had not.

Was there any Communication between you and the Board of Guardians previous to their fixing the new Districts, and the Salary for each District, which appeared in the Advertisement of the 22d of May?
Nothing in regard to the Salaries. I approved of the Principle of their dividing the Union into those Districts, as bringing the Relief more within the Reach of the Poor. That was submitted to me, but not with regard to the Salaries.

When did you first hear of a Difference between the Board and the Medical Men in regard to Salaries?
I think it must have been immediately after the 16th of June that I heard that the Board of Guardians and the Medical Men could not agree.

When did you attend the Board of Guardians?
I attended the Board of Guardians on the 23d of June.

What occurred then?
The Medical Men had been requested to send in Tenders; considerable Discussion is stated to have taken place; and then I addressed the Board at some Length.

Do you remember the Amount of the Tenders?
No, I do not; I have the Particulars of them here.

Did they tender at so much a Head?
Mr. Parker tendered for the Workhouse at 50*l.* a Year; Mr. Abraham King for the Bridgwater District at 3*d.* a Head; Mr. William Lakin Caswell for the Huntspill District, at 4½*d.* a Head; Mr. Addison, for the Middlezoy District, 3¾*d.* a Head; Mr. Nelson Tilsley, at 4½*d.* a Head; Mr. John Evered Poole, 4½*d.* a Head; Mr. Richard Beadon Ruddock, 4½*d.* a Head.

Was any Reference made to you as to those Tenders, and your Opinion asked whether they should be accepted?
I remember stating on my entering the Board of Guardians (having only

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then just arrived at Bridgwater), that the Salaries, at the Rate of 3*d.* per Head, had been satisfactory in other Districts; but that if after a Year's Experience the Guardians should be of a different Opinion, I would advise the Commissioners to sanction an Increase. On this considerable Discussion took place, many of the Guardians contending that there could be no greater Reason for an Increase in this Union than in any other. I then suggested that the Sense of the Board should be taken, on which it was moved by Mr. Inman and seconded by Mr. Poole, "That in the Opinion of this Board the Tenders of the several Medical Gentlemen are more than an adequate Remuneration for their Services, and that they be not accepted." The Gentleman who moved the Resolution is a Magistrate of the Borough of Bridgwater; the Gentleman who seconded it was a Magistrate of the County.

Did you attend afterwards when the Medical Officers were appointed?
Yes.

Were the Salaries then fixed?
No; the Salaries were previously fixed.

When were they fixed?
They were fixed on the 23d of June.

Was there any Increase from the former Year in those new Salaries so fixed?
There was.

Did you recommend that Increase?
I really cannot recollect that I did. I was very anxious there should be a Reconciliation between the Medical Men and the Board of Guardians. I endeavoured to conciliate them. Mr. Poole, who is a Magistrate, and who took a great Interest in the Union, and who always took a great Share in the Discussion on Medical Subjects, I think, suggested the Alteration; but it was done with my full Approbation.

Did they state to you at that Time any thing of having received a Letter on the 2d of June in reference to their Advertisement of the 22d of May, from the Medical Officers, stating that the Remuneration offered was too small?
I do not remember; it might have been stated; the Room was a Scene of Confusion. I do not recollect having any private Conversation myself with any Medical Gentleman.

When you were discussing this Matter, did you learn from them that the whole of the Medical Officers who had been appointed the former Year had written a Letter of the 2d of June, referring to the Advertisement of the Board of Guardians, and stating that the Salaries were too small?
I am perfectly cognizant of the Letter, of course, the whole of the Minutes of the Board being open to me, but whether my Attention was drawn to it on that Day I cannot say.

You are not aware how far the Board of Guardians took any Steps in consequence of that Letter?
No, I do not recollect that.

Have you frequently been present at the Meetings of that Board?
Yes; I have been as often as my other Duties would allow of it. I cannot state the Number of Times.

Did the same strong Discussions which have gone on at that Board go on in Boards in general?
Up to that Time I do not think it was possible for any Union to proceed more amicably than this Union; and it so proceeded up to the Beginning of June. The first Time I ever saw any unpleasant Feeling in the Board of Guardians was when I attended on the 23d of June.

Since the 23d of June, how has the Board proceeded?
Certainly there has been a great Division of Opinion.

And a Warmth of Feeling?
Yes.

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Which still exists?
It does; there is a great Difference of Opinion, certainly.

Has that induced any of the Guardians to absent themselves from that Board?
Not to my Knowledge. I am aware the Number who have attended has been very great. Though this Feeling showed itself in a Difference of Opinion among the Guardians on this Point previous to the 5th of March, the Board of Guardians unanimously passed an Address to Lord John Russell in favour of the Union.

Was that unanimous?
I think it was stated that it was without a dissentient Voice.

How many Guardians were there when that Opinion was expressed?
I have not heard; there were a considerable Number of Guardians.

Had you suggested to the Guardians the Propriety of such an Address?
Most assuredly not.

Are you in the habit of making such Suggestions?
Certainly not. I should think Testimony so obtained as utterly worthless.

Have you ever done it in any Instance?
Never, in any One Instance. It was unanimously agreed to, Thirty-three Guardians being then present.

You said that Mr. Bowen never was present when you were there?
He was present Twice or Three Times.

Did he take any very active Part?
Yes; upon the Subject of the Medical Relief.

Did it appear that he had a great many Followers among the Board of Guardians?
There were certainly some Members of the Board of Guardians that went with him.

How do you account for this Resolution, approving of the Way in which the Poor Law has been worked, passing unanimously, if there were Mr. Bowen and certain others of the Guardians that had not taken this View of it?
Mr. Bowen was not present.

How many Guardians are there?
Fifty or Sixty. I was not present, and I cannot tell how many Guardians there were upon that Occasion. I believe that many of the Guardians who are opposed to the Bridgwater Union, owing to particular local Circumstances, are not opposed to the Law generally. I do not think that Mr. Bowen last Year numbered a great many of the Guardians amongst his followers.

Was it carried unanimously?
Yes; so it was reported to me; so it is entered upon the Minutes.

Then the first Time that the Letter of the 2d of June was brought to your Notice was when you attended upon the 23d of June?
Upon the 23d.

And you made no Remark at that Time as to the Way in which the Board had conducted itself towards those Medical Gentlemen with respect to that Letter of the 2d of June?
There was a great deal of Communication between the Medical Gentlemen and some Members of the Board of Guardians upon the Subject; but my Object was, if possible, to conciliate, and when the Medical Gentlemen would not take it upon the Terms that the Board of Guardians had advertised for they determined upon offering an Increase to the Salary, which they did.

Did you take any Pains, when you saw that there was very little Difference between the Sum offered for the Bridgwater District and the House, and the Sum asked by Mr. King, who had been the Medical Officer last Year, to bring the Board and Mr. King to an Agreement upon that Point?
No; I did not take any particular Pains to bring in any Person. The Board

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of Guardians determined taking the Workhouse and Bridgwater District together, and they fixed 130*l.* for the Two. According to the Tenders that came in it was 97*l.* and 50*l.*, and therefore there was that Difference between the Two.

Mr. King's Offer would have been 17*l.* more?
Mr. King did not offer for the Two. Mr. Parker offered for the Workhouse, and Mr. King for the other.

Did you go again upon the 14th of July?
I did.

Upon that 14th of July Mr. King had made an Offer for the Bridgwater District at 130*l.*?
He had.

Was not he elected in the first instance?
No; not in the Second Year. Mr. Ward was elected.

Previous to the Election taking place do you remember Mr. King being called in?
I do.

Do you remember what passed?
I remember that some Guardians said to Mr. King, "Are you pledged, according to the Rules of the Medical Association, not to speak to any Gentleman that shall come in the District." He said he was; but he was put up notwithstanding that, and had a very considerable Number of Guardians to vote for him.

Do you remember the Number in the Division upon that Occasion?
I do not; if it is not stated upon the Minutes I have no Recollection of it.

You did not interfere upon that Occasion?
I did not. The Board of Guardians had determined to advertise in the London Papers; they did so, and Two Gentlemen came down.

Was it by your Advice that they advertised out of the District?
It was. They first advertised within the District; they could not get any One within the District; and then they said the only Course was to advertise out of the District.

When was it that they advertised within the District?
On the 16th of June the Medical Men would not take the Terms offered. The Board of Guardians then advertised for Tenders. The Medical Men sent in the Tenders. The Board of Guardians considered the Tenders too high; and as they were placed without Medical Officers, I said the only Chance they would have would be to advertise in other Districts.

Would it not have been possible to have had Communication with the Parties in order to see whether they could not make an Arrangement with respect to the Salaries with some of the respectable Medical Gentlemen within the District?
I spoke to some of the influential Members of the Board of Guardians, and they said it would be utterly impossible, with the Combination that had taken place, to enter into an Arrangement with the Medical Gentlemen.

But in point of fact they did enter into an Arrangement afterwards?
They entered into an Arrangement with some of them. They had, with Mr. Ward, Three Gentlemen not connected with the Medical Association as their Officers. If they had been placed in the Situation of having only the Medical Men belonging to the Association they felt they might next Year be called upon for a further Advance.

Are you aware what the Difference would have been between the last Offers made by the Medical Gentlemen and those at which the Districts are now taken?
I am not, without making a Calculation. I do not think the Difference would have been very great. They wanted 20*s.* for every Case of Midwifery, unless they were called upon to attend every Case of Midwifery. The usual

Practice is in all Country Districts for Females to attend. If they were called upon to attend every Case they would have been satisfied with 10*s*., so that that would have made a considerable Difference. *Robert Weale, Esq.*

Did not the Gentlemen require 20*s*. for every Case of Midwifery?
10*s*. if they were allowed to attend every Case of Midwifery; if not, then 20*s*.; but the usual Practice is in all Country Districts for Female Midwives to attend the large Majority of Cases.

Is not 10*s*. the usual Price?
It is.

When you attended before the Guardians upon the Subject of this Remuneration, the Board of Guardians and the Medical Officers had previously got into a State of Irritation?
They had; I did all I could to effect a Reconciliation, but it was quite impossible.

Had Mr. King's Conduct been satisfactory with respect to the Bridgwater District?
I never heard the slightest Complaint.

As you wished to reconcile the Parties, considering that the Difference between Mr. King's Proposal and what was offered was so small, how came it that you did not bring about a Reconciliation between them?
I used all the Means in my Power; but when there were Fifty or Sixty Gentlemen who had been excited in the Way they had, and who considered this Combination so injurious to them, it was impossible.

You consider it a Combination?
I do.

From Hostility to the Poor Law System?
I should not say from Hostility to the Operation of the Poor Law Amendment Act generally, but a Combination in this particular District against the Bridgwater Board of Guardians with reference to Salaries; I should not take it to be any Combination against the Law.

It is in fact an Attempt, by joining together, to increase their Emoluments?
Exactly.

Do not you think it was a little fomented by certain Persons that feel a great Objection to the Law, such as Mr. Bowen?
I have no Means of knowing what Influence Mr. Bowen has with those Medical Gentlemen, but during the first Year of the Union nothing could be more harmonious than the Board of Guardians then, and Mr. Bowen was not a Member.

Do not you think it a Pity, without throwing any Blame whatever upon yourself, that you were not able to be present at the Board of Guardians in the early Part of this Dispute between the Board of Guardians and the Medical Gentlemen?
The very Moment I heard there was a Dispute I fixed the earliest possible Day that I could do. I did not hear of it at the Time, but as soon as I heard of it I named the earliest possible Day, and wrote by Return of Post to say that I should be there on a particular Day.

Do not you regret not having been able to be there upon the 2d of June, when the original Letter was received?
I should be glad to have been there if I could have been the Means of preventing any unpleasant Consequences, but I am not sure that I should have been able to have done it if I had been there.

Looking back to the Events which took place upon that 2d Day of June, do you think you should have been able to allay the Irritation?
I do not think so.

Are you satisfied with the present Rate at which Medical Men are remunerated?
The Commissioners have given their Sanction to an Increase where it has been

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been desired; and I told the Board of Guardians before, that if from Experience they thought the Medical Men were not sufficiently remunerated I should be happy to recommend the Commissioners to increase their Salaries.

Looking at what the actual Increase has been, in your own Judgment is it now satisfactory, or are the Sums paid to the Medical Men unreasonable?

I can only say that in one of the Districts in the adjoining Union of Taunton the Medical Gentlemen have taken them at a lower Sum. I do not wish to see the Medical Men screwed down, and if they cannot do it for the Sum, I am satisfied it should be increased; but when I find Medical Men, Gentlemen of Respectability, offering to do it for less, I am at a loss to know what to say.

Did you ever ask those Medical Gentlemen what their Motive is for taking them at so low a Sum?

I have not. I told this Mr. Rendell when I saw him that I thought his Conduct was not strictly professional; that the Amount of Salary was not more than a fair Compensation for the Medical Officer's Time, and that I thought it was not professional to undersell his Profession.

You have no Means of judging whether it is a fair Remuneration?

It is a most difficult Thing to say what is and what is not a fair Remuneration. I was in hopes that throughout my District we should have gone on quietly till the Inquiry had taken place in the House of Commons, and on its Determination I hoped that then some satisfactory Arrangement would be made.

Have not you found universally that it is more difficult to manage the Medical Department than any other under the Board of Guardians?

Certainly, I have. I have found more Difficulties with reference to the Medical Arrangements to give Satisfaction than I have in any other Part of the Arrangements.

As to the Salaries, or as to the Performance of the Duties?

As to the Salaries. And the Medical Gentlemen are called upon to make Returns, and so on, which they find extremely irksome.

Have you found it difficult to enforce their filling up those Forms properly?

Very often.

In the first instance did not Medical Men object to tender, as derogatory to their Character?

They did; and the very Reason that I broke off the System of tendering was in consequence of their having expressed an Opinion that it was derogatory to them.

Do not they, generally speaking, complain that their Salaries are much too low?

I do not think they do.

What do they complain of?

There has been a Difficulty in getting them to fill up their Returns, and in deciding who is, as a Pauper, entitled to Medical Relief, and who is not.

Does not that depend upon the Relieving Officer?

Yes; but the Relieving Officer finds a Difficulty sometimes in drawing a Distinction. I can illustrate it by this very Case of Bridgwater. It is a Case alluded to in the Medical Pamphlet; the Case of John Cook. In the Evidence of James Newman, at the Bottom of Page 45: "James Newman, Relieving Officer of the First District of the Bridgwater Union, deposes, that he was applied to between Eight and Nine o'Clock in the Morning, on the 14th of July 1837, by the Wife of John Cook, for an Order to the Medical Officer to attend her Child, named John Cook, who, she stated, was ill with some Disease of the Throat; that he refused this Application, thinking that the Applicant should hire a Surgeon, the Husband being a Shoemaker, and never having been a Pauper since Deponent had been Relieving Officer." That merely shows the Sort of Case. This is an Application for Medical Relief, without Application for any other Relief.

Is not that very frequent?

It is very frequent.

They

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They become Paupers by making that Application?
They do.

The State of the Fact with respect to the Remuneration of those Persons seems to be this, that you recommended originally 3*d.* per Head upon the whole Population; that the Medical Officers, upon the 23d of June, offered to take it at 4½*d.* per Head; that the Board then came to a Resolution to give 4*d.* a Head, and that that has been settled as the Remuneration.
I believe that is about the Amount.

You were sent down by the Poor Law Commissioners to make Inquiries in consequence of a Pamphlet called "Facts connected with the Medical Relief of the Poor in the Bridgwater Union"?
I was.

When you went you did not make Inquiries with respect to the Disputes between the Medical Officers and the Board, but you proceeded to the Cases that were contained in that Pamphlet?
That was what I conceived to be the Object of the Commissioners in sending me down.

With respect to the Case of Charlotte Allen,—it is stated that she was a Person who was with Child, and had been unwell; and when she was brought to Bed she was not attended by the Medical Officer, but by a Midwife, and a Day or Two after her Labour she was in a very bad State, and a Medical Officer was ordered to attend her; did you make Inquiry into those Circumstances?
I did.

And these Papers contain the Depositions which were taken by you at that Time?
They do; they were taken on Oath.

When you made this Examination did you inquire of Mr. Ruddock?
No, I did not.

Why did not you call Mr. Ruddock before you?
The Reason was that the Pamphlet altogether was considered to be extremely libellous, and I thought that if I had used the Power intrusted to me by examining those Persons as to the Truth of the Pamphlet I should have been exercising my Power inquisitorially, and therefore I took the Case for the Prosecution, if I may so call it, from the Medical Pamphlet, and the Evidence I took was merely as a Defence of the Union.

Did you think you were likely to get to the Truth of it without having both Parties brought before you?
I thought I should get the Truth of the Case as to the Neglect of the Officers, and the Neglect of the Authorities. As to the Medical Part of the Subject, I felt it extremely difficult to enter into from the Nature of the Disease; I could be no Judge upon that Point; the Medical Men had made their Statement of what it was, and I got the Answer of the Relieving Officer as to the Neglect of Duty with which they were charged.

Must not the Evidence necessarily be very incomplete, because you had not the Facts upon the other Side verified on Oath in the same Way?
We had only one Side upon Oath, and I have stated in my Report that I felt a Delicacy in examining those Medical Gentlemen upon Oath.

You might have called them, and asked them if they chose to be examined?
I might have done so.

Would not it have been proper for you to do so, as they were in a measure attacked?
I think they were the Persons that attacked the Board of Guardians, and they were not measured in their Attacks. I did not feel that it was necessary for me to do that. I have stated my Reason for the Course I took in the Report, that "as all the Medical Men are Members of the Association from which this Pamphlet has emanated, I refused to examine them, although requested by Two or Three Members of the Board of Guardians to do so, under the strong Conviction, that, had I adopted that Course, a good deal

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of Newspaper Thunder would have been levelled at me for using inquisitorial Powers in calling on the Authors and Publishers of Pamphlets to verify their Statements on Oath." I gave that Reason to the Commissioners.

Was not it giving the Accusers rather Advantage, by taking their Accusation, not given on Oath, as valid, and answering it by Depositions?

I thought so; and the Evidence I took was not intended to be published; I was not aware that it was to be made public; it was a mere Report to the Poor Law Commissioners of Evidence in answer to the Pamphlet. I called upon the Board of Guardians to refute the Allegations in the Pamphlet, which we considered to be the Case for the Prosecution.

Were the Authors of this Pamphlet present to hear the Evidence?

They were not.

Is that the proper Mode of conducting an Inquiry, where the Person who is most capable of enabling you to get at the Truth is not present?

There was no Representative of the Guardians present with the Medical Men, nor were they aware of the Medical Men issuing this Pamphlet traducing their Character.

In any Inquiry do not you think it necessary to have all the Parties affected by it present?

I did not conceive so; and upon further Consideration I think the Course I took was a judicious one. I may be wrong; but the Board of Guardians felt that this Pamphlet was an extremely libellous one. I might have taken the Examination of it upon myself, but I am sure that would not have been satisfactory.

The Object of your Examination was, first, to inquire into the Facts, to enable the Poor Law Commissioners to judge of the Conduct of the Officers, and it was still open to any Person that thought that from Neglect of the Officers of the Union this Woman had been materially injured to proceed by Law against them?

Certainly.

It did not close the Inquiry, but it was only for the Satisfaction of the Commissioners?

Exactly. I sent the Pamphlet to the Commissioners, appended to my Report, and I said that was the Case for the Prosecution, and that the Evidence I sent were the Answers of the Board of Guardians and the Officers.

The Result, in one Case, could have been the Punishment of the Officers, but in the other there could be no Punishment of the Persons that brought the Accusation?

None.

Are you aware that a great Number of the Facts, far beyond what is stated in that Pamphlet, that appear in these Depositions, are totally denied by the Medical Officer, Mr. Ruddock?

I am not in the least aware. I have had no Conversation with Mr. Ruddock upon the Subject.

What was the Use to be made of this Examination?

Merely for the Purpose of submitting this Examination to the Poor Law Commissioners, as the Answer of the Board of Guardians to the Accusation made against it.

Then would not it have been as well to have had those who made the Accusation before you?

I took their Case to be according to their own Pamphlet.

When you heard that Evidence against their Case did not you think it important that those that had made the Accusation should know what was said in answer to it, and that they should have an Opportunity of replying to that?

No; I did not think that was the Way in which I was to examine into the Case. Certain Complaints were made against the Officers of the Union; I took the Case as it was charged against them; and I said, "What have you to say

in

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in answer?" I did not admit Reporters to be present—Persons for the Purpose of disseminating this. If I had done that I should have thought that I might have been doing an Injury to the Medical Men.

If you had a Complaint made against a Servant of yours by another Gentleman, should you think it necessary, when you inquired into the Misconduct of that Servant, to summon that Gentleman into your Room, that he might make the Accusation?

Certainly not.

But you would either discharge the Servant or keep the Servant, according as you found that he answered the Accusation satisfactorily or not?

Certainly. If the Board of Guardians had made Complaints against the Medical Officer for any Neglect of Duty I should have then considered myself bound to call the Medical Officer before me, that he might have heard the Nature of the Complaint against him. I should have given him an Opportunity of cross-examining all the Witnesses, and of bringing forward Witnesses in his Defence; but here there is nothing to bring the Medical Officers under the Condemnation of the Commissioners.

But in your Report you impute Blame to them. You say, "I am far from wishing to speak in any way disrespectfully of the Members of a liberal Profession, or to impute unworthy Motives to them; but the Perusal of the Evidence, I must confess, has left a strong Impression on my Mind that the Medical Gentlemen, when the Guardians were in Difficulties, endeavoured to embarrass them as much as possible, and that they have in their Pamphlet endeavoured to traduce and vilify a Body of Men who have at all Times evinced the strongest Desire to perform their important Duties in a fair and independent Manner." Now is not that rather a strong Charge against these Medical Gentlemen?

I have taken the Evidence of the Medical Men, as given in their Pamphlet, and upon that I have said this.

Was not that a private Communication that you made to the Persons that employed you, upon your Examination of the whole Subject?

It was a Report to the Poor Law Commissioners upon this Subject.

Then you conceived that it was a private Communication?

It is officially reported to the Poor Law Commissioners; it was never intended for the Public.

Before you imputed that to them, would not it have been as well to have had them in, and to have stated that such was the Impression upon your Mind?

They have made against the Board of Guardians Imputations much stronger than any of these in the Pamphlet which they put forward to the World. This is merely given as a Review of my Proceedings.

They have not had an Opportunity of hearing the Evidence in Defence, or of cross-examining the Witnesses, and therefore does it not appear that you were not in a Position to give an Opinion at all upon the Subject?

I took their Pamphlet as their Case. The Guardians had certainly not an Opportunity of becoming acquainted with it before it was made public; but this Report never was made public.

Was this Report of yours communicated to the Board of Guardians?

Certainly not; the Evidence was given to the Board of Guardians, but not the Report.

If you think that the Board of Guardians had Reason to complain of the Manner in which their Conduct was observed upon, by this Pamphlet stating Facts against them, do not you think that the Medical Men had some Right to complain of you, behind their Backs, making such a Report of them to the Commissioners?

The Medical Men who avowed themselves as the Authors of this Pamphlet were not the Medical Officers of the Union at all. The Persons that avowed themselves as the Authors of this Pamphlet were Three Medical Men not belonging to the Union.

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You have published as a Part of your Report a Resolution of the Board of Guardians; now surely the Board of Guardians must have been informed of what you were doing? Were the Board of Guardians present?

Yes; the whole Board of Guardians were present at the Inquiry. The Commissioners sent down a Letter to the Board of Guardians to beg them to give them some Answers to the Questions.

And they produced those Witnesses?

Those Witnesses were produced.

Do not you think it would have been as well that the Persons who had written the Charge which those Witnesses were to answer should have been present, and have had the Opportunity of hearing what Answer they gave?

I have already said that I do not think so.

And you thought it right, without their being present, that you should forward this Resolution of the Board of Guardians to the Poor Law Commissioners?

Exactly so. We had heard the whole Pamphlet read, and we heard the Answer to it. The Board of Guardians took the Pamphlet as the Case for the Prosecution, and Evidence was given for the Defence. I would not take the Evidence of the Defence except upon Oath; but I took the other as it was, without calling upon any Person to verify it.

No one being present on behalf of the Medical Gentlemen to hear the Evidence, and cross-examine the Witnesses?

And no one being present on behalf of the Board of Guardians to see this Pamphlet before it is sent into the World.

Is it very usual for a Person who writes a Libel to send to the Person libelled before he sends it to the Press?

I do not think it is, though it would be a very useful Thing if it were done.

Would it not have been a different Thing if the Report had been made by those Parties, instead of being made by you?

The Board of Guardians expressed their Opinion by a separate Resolution, and my Report was never read to the Board of Guardians. It was my Communication to the Commissioners, without any Expectation when it was written that it would ever have gone beyond the Commissioners.

That Paragraph in which you say, "I am far from wishing to speak," and so forth, was never communicated to the Board of Guardians?

Not at all.

Nor sent forth to the Public till it was called for by Parliament?

Never. The first Day of our Inquiry that Pamphlet was considered as an anonymous one. It was not till we had commenced our Proceedings on the Second Day that we knew who were the Authors.

You were sent down by your Superiors, your Masters, (if that Expression may be used,) to make an Inquiry into the Conduct of the Officers, and you did make that Inquiry; that Inquiry was made before the Board of Guardians, but your own Opinion upon the Conduct of the Parties concerned was given in a private Report from you to your Superiors?

It was. It is not to be found any where in the Books of the Union, nor was the Board of Guardians in possession of it till it was printed by Order of Parliament.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Mr. John Stagg.

Mr. JOHN STAGG is called in, and examined as follows:

YOU are the Relieving Officer of the Second District of the Bridgwater Union?

I am.

What is that Second District called?

Huntspill and Polden Hill District?

Did

Mr. John Stagg.

Did not you order Mr. Caswell to attend upon certain Days upon a Child of a Man named Reynolds?
I did.

Was he attended?
He was.

On the 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, and 30th of June 1837?
Yes.

That was at the Time the Medical Officers were paid as for private Patients?
It was.

Had you received any Directions from the Board of Guardians with respect to calling upon the Medical Officer to attend the Paupers at that Time?
I had.

What were your Orders?
I had Orders to act with Discretion in giving Medical Relief.

What did you understand by that?
That we were not to give Relief to every one that applied.

To be careful how you did do so?
Yes.

Were there many Persons that applied to you during that Time to whom you took upon yourself, using that Discretion, to refuse the Order?
I do not know that I refused any one. I never had any Application except from those Paupers that were in the Receipt of Parochial Relief, or from very few.

Are you sure that you had no Application but from those that had received Parochial Relief?
I had from a few others.

Was this Child attended regularly up to the Time of its Death?
No, it was not.

How long before its Death had the Attendance ceased?
I gave Mr. Caswell an Order to discontinue his Attendance on Saturday, and on the Tuesday following I gave him an Order to continue his Attendance.

Do you recollect what Day of the Month the Saturday was?
The 1st of July.

And then, upon the 4th, you gave an Order to attend again?
I did.

What made you give any Order not to attend upon the 1st of July?
Because I considered his Attendance was not required every Day to see the Child.

How did you know that?
He told me in the first Onset, when I gave him the Order, that he could do the Child no Good, nor all the Surgeons in England.

Though he could not save the Child's Life, might not he have relieved its Sufferings?
He told me he could do him no Good.

Upon that you took upon yourself to say, "Do not attend him"?
Yes, I did, having received Instructions from the Board to that Effect.

He returned, however, upon the 4th of July?
He did.

Did he report to you or do you know how he found the Child at that Time?
He reported to the Board once a Week. By his Book I saw his Report was, "Not in immediate Danger, but will never recover."

Mr. John Stagg.

What is the Date of that?
I do not know.

How came you to order him to visit the Child again upon the 4th?
He said to me that I had no Right to give him an Order to discontinue his Attendance, and consequently I gave him an Order to attend again.

It was in consequence of his Remonstrance that you gave him the Order?
Yes.

Did he tell you that the Child was in a State that was not right to be left?
He did not then.

Did he afterwards?
He told me that I should not take upon myself the Responsibility to give him an Order to discontinue his Attendance, and I told him I had not.

Do you know when the Child died?
I do not know the exact Day.

Did he die soon after that Time?
He was reported the Friday following to be dead.

With respect to Coles and Millard, you prevented Mr. Caswell from attending them?
I did.

What made you do that?
I called to see them upon the Saturday Morning; they told me they did not require to see him so often; and they had Medicine sufficient for Two or Three Days.

Do you know what was the Matter with them?
I believe it was reported to be from intermittent Fever.

How do you know they did not require Assistance?
They told me so themselves.

Do you think you were a Judge merely from their telling you whether they required Assistance?
No, I was no Judge of it.

Supposing you had not received that Direction to be cautious how you gave Orders, should you have ordered him to discontinue Attendance upon them?
I do not think I should.

Then it was in consequence of the Order you received from the Board of Guardians that you gave him the Order to discontinue the Attendance?
Yes; and upon the Information I received from the Paupers themselves.

Was not he to be paid for the Work he did, instead of being paid so much Salary?
He was to be paid as for private Patients.

During that Period Mr. Caswell had been much more active in visiting Paupers than he was when he was employed by the Board at a Salary?
I believe he had.

Was there a great Increase of Illness during that Time?
I do not know that there was any great Increase.

Was there any Increase?
There were a great many Paupers upon the Lists before the Contract expired.

Did not that List increase extremely after the Contract expired?
I do not know that it did increase; he had paid his Visits more frequently.

When he charged per Visit, his Visits were much more frequent?
Yes.

You are sure of that?
I could perceive that by his Report Book.

Mr. John Stagg.

You told him to discontinue the Attendance upon Coles and Millard because they said they did not require any Attendance; of course when a Pauper told you he was well you did not send a Medical Man to him?
I did not.

And upon their telling you that they were recovered you did not send a Medical Man to see that they were recovered?
No.

Did they tell you they were recovered?
No; they told me that they did not require his Assistance so often.

Did they appear to you to be well?
They did not appear to me to be well; they appeared to be better.

But still ill?
Yes.

They did not appear to you to require daily Attendance?
They did no t.

Do you think you are a good Judge upon that?
No.

Do you believe they would have had daily Attendance if it had been during the Contract?
I am quite sure they would not.

Were they ever neglected during the Contract?
They were never neglected.

You think they were always attended when it was necessary that they should be attended?
They were; in similar Cases to those they were generally attended once or twice a Week.

And after the Contract was at an end, and they were paid for as other Patients, the Attendance was much more frequent?
Yes.

You thought it necessary to check that?
I did.

Is it not a bad Thing then for the Poor to do it by Contract, if it is the Interest of the Medical Men not to be so active in doing their Duty?
I do not know that.

Do not the Board of Guardians take care that the Medical Men do do their Duty?
They do.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned to Thursday next, Twelve o'Clock.

Die Lunæ, 25° Junii 1838.

The Lord WHARNCLIFFE in the Chair.

Mr. JONATHAN TOOGOOD is called in, and examined as follows:

YOU live at Bridgwater?
I do.

You practise there as a Surgeon?
As a general Practitioner.

Have you been long resident in that Place?
About Forty Years; Thirty-two of which I have been in actual Practice.

You have also Two Sons who are in Practice there?
I have.

In the course of the Year 1837 a Pamphlet was published at Bridgwater, called, "Facts connected with the Medical Relief of the Poor in the Bridgwater Union." The Committee are informed you were one of the Parties concerned in that Pamphlet?
I was.

Was the Pamphlet drawn up by yourself, or were there any other Persons concerned in the drawing it up?
Conjointly with Two other Gentlemen; we were appointed a Committee, of which I was the Chairman.

The Committee think it right to say, that of course they do not wish you to state any thing that may by possibility bring you into any Difficulty; and therefore, if you have any Objection to the Fact of your having been the Author of that Pamphlet appearing upon the Minutes they will erase it?
I have not. I believe I have the Proofs of all the Facts in my Possession.

You say you were Chairman of the Committee by whom this Pamphlet was written?
I was.

A Committee of what Body?
The Medical Men.

A Medical Association formed at Bridgwater alone?
Yes.

And consisting only of those Persons practising in Bridgwater and in the immediate Neighbourhood?
Yes.

Can you give the Names of the Committee who drew up the Pamphlet?
Mr. Henry Axford, Mr. James Haviland, and myself.

Have you any List of the Medical Men who composed the Medical Association at Bridgwater?
I believe I have. Mr. Jonathan Toogood, that is myself, Mr. Henry Axford, Mr. James Haviland, Mr. Edward Austice Stradling, Mr. James Coles Parker, Mr. Horatio Nelson Tilsley, Mr. Abraham King, Mr. Richard Beadon Ruddock, Mr. William Lakin Caswell.

He is dead, is he not?
He is. Mr. George Rendall, Mr. Gill—I do not know his Christian Name,—Mr. Thomas James Poole, Mr. John Giles Toogood.

Mr. J. Toogood.

That is one of your Sons?
Yes. Mr. Robert Baker, Mr. Isaac Baruch Toogood, Mr. John Evered Poole, Mr. Joseph Addison.

Are those Persons whom you have named all the Persons who were at that Time practising within the Bridgwater Union?
No; there were a few others, I believe.

Can you give the Committee an Idea of the Number of others?
No; I could tell the Names of some: Mr. Strong, who practised at Petherton, a Partner of Mr. Tilsley; Mr. King, who practised at Stowey, a Partner of Mr. Ruddock's; Mr. Young was a new Comer, he had just come into the Neighbourhood; and there was a Person of the Name of Phillips, who lived at Chilton.

Was Application made to those Gentlemen to become Members of this Association?
To some of them; I am not aware whether it was to all; I do not know to whom.

Did they give any Reasons for declining to become Members of it?
Mr. Young gave as a Reason that no Hour was fixed for the Meeting.

Did any of the others give any Reason?
I never heard of any.

To whom did Mr. Young give that Reason?
I cannot say; I think he has printed a Letter to that Effect. I believe I have it.

When was this Association formed?
I believe it was in the Month of June.

In what Part of the Month of June?
I cannot recollect the Date; I believe it was in the early Part of the Month of June.

Was it the 8th or 9th?
I cannot tell.

Do you remember seeing a Letter to the Board of Guardians of the Union, signed by all the former Medical Officers?
Yes.

Was it previous or subsequent to your having seen that Letter?
I cannot charge my Memory. It was about the Time; but I cannot say whether before or after. I think I saw that Letter on the Wednesday Night.

You signed a Sort of Recommendation or Adhesion to that Letter?
I did.

Do you recollect the Day on which you signed that Letter?
No, I do not; I recollect that it was on a Wednesday Night.

Was it before or after you signed that Letter that that Association was formed?
I cannot tell; I know it was about the Time; but whether it was a few Days before or after I cannot tell without reference to Dates.

That Letter did not emanate from you as an Association?
No, certainly not.

Was it at all a Letter that it had been recommended by the Association to those Persons to write?
Certainly not. I never saw the Letter till it was brought to me to sign. I agreed in the Propriety of it after I saw it.

Not before?
No; I had never seen it before.

It was signed by them previous to your having seen it?
Yes.

Mr. J. Toogood.

By all?

I am not sure whether by all; I saw several Signatures. It was brought to me so late, I think, as Ten o'Clock at Night.

What was your Inducement to form this Association?

Perhaps I must go into its History to explain that: The Medical Men who had taken charge of the Districts of the Union thought themselves hardly dealt by, and called a Meeting of Medical Gentlemen, and laid their Case before them.

Can you give the Date of that Meeting?

I cannot. I perfectly recollect its being on a Thursday, and I could name it if I were at home, for I recollect a particular Engagement I had on that Day. I am inclined to think the 6th of June was on a Saturday.

You say that there was a Meeting called of the Medical Men; by whom was that called?

The Medical Men who had had the Care of the Unions.

What passed at the Meeting?

They stated to that Meeting that a Circular had been addressed to them, proposing the Sums at which they were expected to take the Unions on the following Year. They were dissatisfied with those Sums, and consulted the old Members of the Profession as to the Propriety of their Demand. I for one considered their Demand a very moderate one, and I recommended them to persevere in asking what I considered was a proper and reasonable Sum for their Services.

Did they state any particular Sum which they had stated to the Board of Guardians as a proper Sum for their Remuneration?

I think they stated something like 4*d.* a Head on the Population; and they were induced to do this in consequence of a Promise or an implied Promise from the Chairman, that on the Second Year the Thing should be made better; that the First was a Year of Probation and Inquiry; that it was a new Thing; that no one could say how it would work; but that the following Year it should be made better. This the Chairman himself had told me repeatedly.

The Profession did not interfere during that First Year with regard to the Salaries?

Not at all; it was considered quite a new Thing. The Salaries the First Year were infinitely below what they were before the Formation of the Union.

Can you state how much they were below the Salaries before the Union?

The annual Salaries which were paid to the Surgeons before the Formation of the Union, exclusive of Casualties and suspended Orders, amounted, by the Return to the Board, to 481*l.*, and the Casualties and suspended Orders were calculated by the Board at Twenty per Cent., which made 96*l.* 5*s.*, making in the whole 577*l.* 5*s.*; but that Calculation was very much below the Mark. I believe the Surgeons themselves took the pains to go through the Sums, and found that they amounted to Double; that is, nearly 200*l.* a Year.

What are they now?

The Salaries paid by the Board to the Medical Officers of the whole Union amounted to 363*l.*, including every thing except a Fee of 10*s.* for Midwifery. At the Expiration of the Year, or, I believe, before the Expiration of the Year, I think in May, a Gratuity of Ten per Cent. was presented to the Surgeons for their great Exertions during the Prevalence of the Influenza, which amounted to 36*l.* 10*s.*, making 399*l.* 3*s.* The Salaries offered by the Board for the Second Year, 1837, including the Union House, which was calculated to hold 300 People, were 400*l.* When the Surgeons refused those Terms a Second Offer was made by the Board of 435*l.* The Salaries which were required by the Surgeons, at a given Calculation of 4*d.* a Head, or something under 4*d.* a Head, on the Census of 1831, amounted to 528*l.* 16*s.* 4½*d.*, lower considerably than the Sum, including Casualties and every thing, before the Union. A certain Part of the Board proposed some Accommodation, and they recommended that 4*d.* a Head should be given on a Population of 28,666 Persons, including the Workhouse, which would amount to 476*l.*; but they were out-voted.

Mr. J. Toogood.

How do you know that Fact?

I have heard it from many of the Guardians. The Difference between the Sum asked by the Medical Officers and that proposed by many of the Guardians amounted to 52*l.* 14*s.* I can also state what the Expenses for the current Year are, the Expenses for the Medical Relief of the whole of the Bridgwater Union, from the 24th of June 1837 to the 25th of June 1838; neither of those included the Midwifery. There was a Period of Three Weeks during which they were paid in a different Way; that amounted to 162*l.* 14*s.* 2½*d.*, 28*l.* were paid for Advertisements for Medical Men, and 463*l.* for Law Expenses incurred in resisting a Bill of Mr. Poole's, amounting altogether to 1,087*l.* 10*s.* 10½*d.*

That includes Litigation?

Yes; 463*l.* of it.

What are the Salaries for this Year?

£435.

You have given the Amount for Medical Attendance under the old System and under the new System; have you a Return of the Number of Patients under the old System, and a Return of the Number of Patients under the new?

I believe I have not.

You are aware that under the old System almost all the able-bodied Labourers were attended by Medical Men?

No, I think not.

Only those that received Parochial Relief?

I believe not. I have not had the Care of the Parish myself for many Years past. I held One very small Parish for Twenty Years, and in that Parish I believe that the independent Labourers, the able-bodied Labourers, paid for themselves; that I was not compelled to attend any, except those who brought Orders from the Overseer.

Are you not aware that the Overseer was in the habit of giving those Orders almost universally, even to independent Labourers, under the old System, who happened to want temporary Medical Attendance?

He did occasionally in that Parish, not generally.

Are you not aware that there were more attended, previous to the Introduction of the new System, by Medical Attendants than there were attended by Medical Attendants under the present System?

I think in many Cases there were.

That would account for the Deduction of Payment in the present System?

I think it might in many Cases, but as far as my Experience has gone it would not.

As far as your Experience goes were any attended by the Medical Officer of the Parish under the old System that did not require that Attendance?

No.

You have been asked whether there was more Attendance on independent able-bodied Paupers; were any Persons ordered to be attended by the Medical Officer of the Parish who were not in a State of Poverty to require that Attendance?

I think not.

Do you mean to say that when you attended as the Parish Doctor you did not attend any who did not bring an Order from the Overseer?

No, I do not say that by any means. I felt some Interest in the Parish; I attended the principal People; I was there Three or Four Times a Week, and if it was represented to me that any were ill I attended them.

Did you consider that as an Attendance as Parish Doctor, or as an Act of Kindness and Benevolence on your Part?

I attended them as Paupers mostly; generally I was not paid by them.

A large Portion of the Payment of the Medical Officers was derived under the suspended Orders formerly, was it not?

No. I had the Parish of Bawdrip Twenty Years; the nnual Salary was

Mr. J. Toogood.

Seven Guineas. During the whole Twenty Years the average Expense, the Population being at the last Census 373, Distance Three Miles from the Surgeon's Residence, was just about 10*l.*—199*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.* for the Twenty Years. It did not exceed the annual Salary some Years. One Year there was a very bad Case of Fracture, which made the Bill more; but generally all the Midwifery and suspended Orders, and altogether, made it only 10*l.* a Year; and it included a long Line of Road on which, of course, there is a Liability to Accidents.

It was 199*l.* 16*s.* for the Twenty Years?
Yes; the Salary was first Six Guineas, and then Seven.

Who examined the Bills where the Paupers did not belong to the Parish?
They were examined at the Parish Meeting by the Overseers and Churchwardens.

The Overseers were not ultimately responsible for the Payment, were they?
If there had been any Default I should have expected it to be paid by the Overseer; he was responsible.

In the Parish Vestry they did not care in the least whether it was a small or a large Bill, because it was to be paid by another Parish?
Oh dear, not so.

Was not it paid by the other Parish?
I do not know how they managed it; I had nothing to do with any Parish but this for many Years.

Supposing a Man belonged to the Parish of Camberwell, and that the Magistrates in that Neighbourhood had removed him to Camberwell, but in the meantime he was sick, and not able to be sent there; would not that Magistrate give an Order to suspend the Removal, and under those Circumstances would not the Bill be paid by the Camberwell Parish, and not by that in which the Man resided?
Certainly.

Would they not take care that you should not be paid more than you ought to be paid?
I never was paid more than that I have stated; and I had One Year a very bad Fracture; the Bill that Year amounted to 18*l.*, including my Salary.

Do you believe that the Bills for Paupers, who are attended by Medical Men under suspended Orders were examined with the same Care as Bills for Paupers who were not under suspended Orders?
I believe they were, as far as my own Experience goes.

In the Case supposed, would the Officers of the Parish of Bawdrip have paid for the distant Parish, without due Examination, if they had thought such Bill exorbitant?
No, I think not.

Have they any Means of avoiding it?
I know that I have in the course of my Life attended casual Poor: One I can speak of particularly,—a Man who had fractured his Skull, who was put into my Surgery. I attended him some Time, till he was capable of being removed into his own House; and in consequence, perhaps, of my not knowing the Law, I did not do that which was essential to my own Interest, and I did not get a Farthing for it.

That was not on a suspended Order?
No.

Although you say that the Vestry did examine into those Charges, still they amounted to between Forty and Fifty per Cent., in addition to the regular Salary?
Yes; but perhaps I should state that there is throughout our Neighbourhood an established Rule of Charges; and there is a Charge, called an intermediate Charge, for Paupers and independent Labourers; and I am quite sure that all People falling under that Denomination are charged at a less Rate than Patients in a higher Rank of Life.

Mr. J. Toogood.

You have stated the Difference between the Sums paid to the Medical Officers under the old System and under the new; you have stated that 4*d.* per Head was paid, and that that is more than is allowed by the Board?
Yes.

How much is paid in the Bridgwater Union?
I think about $2\frac{1}{2}d.$, but I am not quite sure.

It appears that there is an Uniformity in the Unions under the Direction of Mr. Weale; but do you happen to know what is paid in those Unions which are under some other Poor Law Commissioner, not Mr. Weale?
I do. I have a Letter from the Clerk of the Sherbourne Union: in the Dorchester $4\frac{3}{4}d.$, and in the Sherbourne $4\frac{1}{2}d.$

Do you know the Terms on which Medical Relief has been provided in the Taunton Union, which is in the immediate Neighbourhood of Bridgwater?
I do not.

That is within Fifteen Miles of Bridgwater?
Within Twelve. I conceive the Payment for the Bridgwater Union the First Year to be under 3*d.* a Head.

Do you know the Chilton Union?
I only know it from One of the Guardians.

Who is that Guardian?
Mr. Ward of Over Stowey.

How do you make out that in the Year beginning June 1836 and ending June 1837 the Remuneration to the Medical Officers was under 3*d.* a Head for the Bridgwater Union?
It was calculated by a Banker's Clerk for me. The Population is 28,566; the Salaries that Year were 363*l.* This is the Paper which was given me by one of the Guardians. (*Producing the same.*)

In whose Handwriting is that Paper?
It is the Writing of One of the Guardians; I think a Mr. Dalley; he gave it me.

Mr. Dalley may have got it from somebody else?
He is a Guardian.

Whatever the Rate per Head was, the Medical Officers at Bridgwater were dissatisfied with it?
They were.

And that led to the Publication of this Letter?
Yes, in part; they had another Object in view.

What was that Object?
There had been a good deal said about the Medical Men; they had been very much calumniated and abused, and extraordinary Things attributed to them which they had never done; and they thought it right to set themselves right with the Public.

Who calumniated them?
The Guardians, or some among the Guardians.

Will you endeavour to fix the Day on which that Association began its Labours; on what Day of the Week did the Board of Guardians meet?
The First Year they met on the Tuesday; they now meet on the Friday.

At the Time at which the Letter was signed by the Medical Officers, which was in June 1837, what was the Day of meeting of the Board of Guardians?
I do not know the Time of the Year at which they altered the Day of meeting.

On what Day of the Week was it you signed that Paper?
I believe it was on the Wednesday Night; I am not sure; I know that the Association held its First Meeting on a Thursday.

Was that the Thursday after you signed the Letter?
I cannot say.

The

Mr. J. Toogood.

The First Letter from those Medical Officers was delivered to the Board of Guardians at their Meeting on Friday the 2d of June; was it before or after that your Association began its Labours?

I think it must have been afterwards; but I cannot at this Distance of Time state that.

Was it in consequence of that Letter, and the Second Letter which is inserted in your Pamphlet, dated the 6th of June, that your Association was formed?

It was.

Consequently the Association must have been formed subsequently to the Letter which was written on the 2d of June?

I suppose it was.

Without referring to Dates, was it formed subsequently to the Two Letters written to the Board of Guardians?

I cannot state positively, without reference to Papers which I have at home.

You cannot fix the Date at which that Meeting was held?

I can speak to the Day of the Week; I know it was on a Thursday; and by an Entry I have at home I can tell the Day of the Month.

Can you say whether it was formed previous to the Time when the Seven Medical Men signed the Letter, and it was countersigned by Nine Medical Men?

I think it was subsequent to that.

You say that Letter of the 2d of June was signed by the Medical Officers of the Union before you put your Name to it; had you heard of it before it was drawn up by the Medical Officers?

No; it was brought to my House by Mr. Parker as late as Ten o'Clock at Night.

Your Son was One of the Medical Officers of the Union, was he not?

He was; but I think at that Time he was not at home.

He signed it?

Yes; but he was not at home on that Wednesday; I believe he was at Wells on the Wednesday when it was brought to me.

That Letter has no Date?

No, it has not.

Had you never heard of that Letter before it was brought to you?

No.

And you do not know what Names were to it when it was brought to you?

No; there were several Names when it was brought to me. I signed on the opposite Side. The Names of the Gentlemen who had the Care of the Poor were on one Side, and I signed on the other.

You were the first who signed it on the same Side you signed, were you not?

No; I think they had left a Space for my Name as being the senior Practitioner.

With respect to the Letter of the 6th of June, did you see that Letter before it was sent to the Board of Guardians?

Yes.

Your Son's Name, Baruch Toogood, is first signed to the Letter?

It is.

Had you any thing to do with the drawing up of that Letter?

Yes; I suggested some Things in it.

How came you to suggest the writing of that Letter?

I did not suggest the writing of the Letter, only a Paragraph in it.

Was it brought to you before you signed it?

Yes.

Mr. J. Toogood.

Had you any Conversation with respect to sending a Letter of that Kind to the Board?

He asked me whether I thought there was any thing improper in it, and I said I thought not.

Which was the Paragraph you suggested?

That which proposed that the Paupers should be attended gratuitously until a new Arrangement could be made.

The former Letter having been delivered on the 2d of June, did you not think that the 6th of June was rather too early a Period to show that Offence had been taken at not having the former Letter answered?

I should have thought so; but different Complaints had been made to the Board of Guardians, and they never noticed any Communication from the Medical Men; I wrote myself to them, and they took no Notice of my Letter.

What was the Subject of your Letter?

I wrote desiring that the Institution we had at Bridgwater for Servants and Mechanics, the Bridgwater Infirmary, should not be over-burdened, as it had been, by the Poor.

At what Period did you write that Letter?

I have a Copy of it here; June the 14th, 1837.

Then that was subsequent to the Letter referred to?

Yes.

Therefore that could not be the Reason for your recommending this?

No; but my Son had written Letters to the Board of Guardians, and other Medical Men also, but had not received the slightest Reply. I never received any Answer to that Letter I wrote; but it was only a Continuation of the same Conduct which had been observed by a great Number of the Board of Guardians from the Commencement of this Dispute.

In this Letter there are Allusions to a Report of their having been charged with uncandid and improper Conduct; when were those Reports, and what was the uncandid and improper Conduct which you had heard had been attributed to them?

There were Reports that they combined together to exact exorbitant Prices.

There were Reports that the Board of Guardians had accused them of that, you mean?

Yes; for the Purpose of exacting unreasonable Terms.

Did you hear a Report also that Mr. Weale had countenanced those Reports?

I do not remember hearing that.

Did you take any Trouble either to satisfy yourself, or to recommend your Son to satisfy himself, that those Reports had any Foundation?

I inquired of the Guardians, and was assured of the Fact.

You inquired of the Board of Guardians?

Yes.

Previous to the Letter of the 6th of June being sent?

Yes.

That was the Impression which you thought warranted the Writers in putting in a Paragraph of that Description?

There had been a great deal of very bad Feeling shown by the Board of Guardians to the Medical Men, and they had been treated with great Contempt; they had been denounced from the Chair as being Conspirators, and being a Set of Beggars suing for Alms, holding Pistols in their Hands ready to present to the Breasts of the Guardians; or Words to that Effect.

How did you know that?

I can produce Witnesses who heard it.

Mr. J. Toogood.

Who are those Witnesses?
The Reverend William Allen and Mr. John Bowen. Mr. John Bowen is in London.

They were Members of the Board of Guardians?
Yes.

They had stated those Facts to your Son?
They had, to me and to my Son.

Previous to this Letter of the 6th of June?
Yes.

What did they state them to have said?
They stated that the Chairman had denounced the Medical Men generally as a set of Conspirators; that he could only compare them to Beggars suing for Alms, holding Pistols in their Hands ready to present at the Board of Guardians. One of the Gentlemen, I believe, took the Words down.

Which was that?
I am not certain whether Mr. Allen or Mr. Bowen, but I heard it from Eight or Ten others; it was the Subject of general Conversation.

How did you send that Letter of the 14th of June?
I sent it by one of my own People, and he delivered it to the Clerk in the usual Way.

Do you know that it was received?
I do; for I have an Extract from the Book of the Union, with some Observations made upon it.

Who has given you an Extract from the Books of the Union?
I had it from One of the Guardians.

From whom?
I do not know from whom, but I believe that is in the Handwriting of the Clerk's Son.

This appears to be an Extract from the Minutes of July the 14th?
My Letter was dated the 14th of June.

Who took this Minute from the Book?
I believe it was Mr. Watson.

Who gave it to you?
It was left at my House. I desired One of the Guardians, one Day when I was going out of Town, to get any Observations that were made upon my Letter.

Who was this Guardian?
Mr. Watson. It was left at my House upon my Return.

Your Letter appears to have been received on the 14th of July. Is this the Letter:—"To the Board of Guardians of the Bridgwater Union. Gentlemen, Your Relieving Officers having refused Orders for Medical Relief in Cases of Necessity, and having referred the Applicants to Persons connected with the Bridgwater Infirmary, I take the Liberty, being much interested in the Welfare of that Establishment, of reminding the Board that that Charity was originally instituted for the Benefit of Servants, Mechanics, and Labourers, and not for the Reception of Paupers, excepting in Cases of Operation and of extraordinary Necessity," and so on?
It is.

You recommended the Insertion of the Paragraph offering the Services of the Medical Officers gratuitously until the Districts were provided for?
Yes.

That Offer was refused?
Yes. My Inducement to do so was that I hoped in the meantime an amicable Arrangement would have taken place.

Mr. J. Toogood.

Are you aware that after that the Medical Gentlemen received Directions from the Board to attend the Paupers as independent Patients?
Yes, I heard so.

Have you had an Opportunity of seeing the Bills of any of the Medical Officers during that Time?
I have seen them, but I have not gone through them.

In what Way have they charged in those Bills; have they charged as for Patients of the better Class, or in the Way you stated just now, Patients of the poorer Class?
Of the poorer Class.

It is not the full Charge, such as you would make for the Family of a Gentleman?
For Journeys in the Country the same Charge is made as is usually made to a Family in that Class of Life; but the Medicines are charged at a lower Rate in the Accounts I have seen. I have not gone through any of them, but I have seen some of them.

You had a Meeting of the Medical Association; and one of its Resolutions was, that you would not recognize or hold Intercourse with any Medical Practitioner who dishonours the Profession by acting in opposition to the foregoing Resolutions; and a former one states, "That this Meeting pledges itself not to accept any Appointment under the Poor Law Amendment Act without the Sanction of the Committee." Are you aware that upon the 16th of June there were Offers made by several of those Persons who had been Medical Officers before, and who were Members of that Association, to take the Districts at different Amounts; some at $4\frac{1}{2}d.$ a Head, some at $3\frac{3}{4}d.$, and another at $3d.$, for the Bridgwater District, and at a certain Sum for the Union Poorhouse?
Yes, I am.

Was the Intention of making those Proposals submitted to the Committee of the Association before they were made?
Yes.

And they approved of their so doing?
They approved of it as far as this, that a Stranger had been introduced, and they were threatened with the Introduction of others; and therefore it was conceived, that of Two Evils perhaps they had better choose the least.

Who was that Stranger?
His Name was Ward.

Had he been elected?
He was elected in June.

Had he been elected previous to the Offer of the Medical Officers?
I cannot tell without Dates; but if he had not been elected, it was understood there were Persons prepared to take the Unions. It was communicated to some of the Gentlemen who had held the Unions that there were Medical Men ready to take the Unions if they did not.

You say that the Medical Association thought it better that Offer should be made?
Yes; there was a Desire on the Part of the Medical Men, as far as they could, to settle the Matter amicably.

Those Offers were rejected by the Board?
Yes.

Districts 3. and 4. were filled up?
Mr. Phillips was appointed to one, and Mr. Young to another.

Neither Mr. Phillips nor Mr. Young were Members of your Association?
Neither of them.

The Medical Men received Directions from the Board to attend the Poor the same as their own Patients; and under that, you say they charged for the Visits as to individual Farmers, and for Medicines, at a lower Rate?
As far as I saw the Charges.

Mr. J. Toogood.

Mr. Ward, you say, was introduced; what District did he take?
He was appointed to Two Districts; that is to say, he was appointed to the Bridgwater District and the Union House.

Did Mr. Ward come in upon the same Terms as a Surgeon belonging to Bridgwater would have taken it on?
No, I conceive not; he came there a perfect Stranger.

Had he a larger Salary than a Gentleman of Bridgwater would have taken it at?
He had a larger Salary than that first offered; but Mr. King, who had held it the Year before, would have taken it at the same, or, I believe, somewhat less, for his Offer which his Letter referred to was something less. I believe Mr. King offered to take the Union House and the Bridgwater District at somewhat less than Mr. Ward took them.

Is Mr. King a skilful Man?
Mr. King was born and bred in the Neighbourhood; he served his Apprenticeship with Mr. Haviland, a near Relation of the Regius Professor at Cambridge; he has been educated fully in London, and has been since on the Continent; he is a skilful Man; he attended the Union One Year before, during which the Guardians were very well satisfied.

Where did Mr. Ward come from?
By the Card which he published he came from Newcastle-on-Tyne; his Card will be found on the Minutes of the Union.

Have you Mr. Ward's Card by which he introduced himself to the Inhabitants of Bridgwater?
I have a Copy of it; the Original is in the Books.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

The Witness is again called in.

Do you know where the Card is to be found?
I have never seen the original Card; the Clerk informs me that it is in the Letter Book.

When you stated that it was in the Minutes, you meant in the Letter Book?
He has informed me, while I have been out of the Room, that it was in the Letter Book.

You have stated that you have received this Paper from a Gentleman of the Name of Watson?
Yes.

Is he a Guardian?
Yes.

For what Place?
For Bridgwater.

Has he been in the habit of attending the Board?
I believe very regularly.

He was not a Guardian in 1837?
He was not.

You received these Minutes from a Person who was not a Guardian in 1837?
I have only just received them.

Subsequent then to the Publication of the Pamphlet?
Yes.

From whom did you hear that Calumnies had been uttered by the Board?
Generally abroad.

From whom?
I have heard it from the whole Neighbourhood.

Mr. J. Toogood.

From what Guardians?
From many; from Mr. Watson; from Mr. King.

Do you mean Mr. Meade King?
No, Mr. Pitman King; from a Mr. Danger. I think I could enumerate Twenty Names who were Guardians the previous Year.

Did you hear it from Mr. Bowen?
Yes, I heard it from Mr. Bowen also.

What were the Calumnies you heard from those Gentlemen?
Various Misrepresentations and Abuse of the Medical Men, and of myself in particular.

You were not one of the Medical Officers?
No; and I am not interested, except that I should be glad to have the Truth of the Facts ascertained.

With respect to Calumnies, as far as you know, is every Word asserted in that Publication true?
To the best of my Knowledge and Belief it is.

Are you one of the Gentlemen who attend the Infirmary at Bridgwater?
I established the Infirmary Twenty-five Years ago.

What Salary do you receive?
None.

You do the Duty well though you receive no Salary?
I hope I do.

The other Medical Men in the Neighbourhood attend gratuitously also, do they not?
Yes. There are only Two Medical Officers; there was a Third; the late Regius Professor of Medicine was the Physician of that Infirmary.

It is the Custom in many Infirmaries that Medical Men attend gratuitously?
Always, I believe.

Though not a Matter of Payment, they are induced to attend those Institutions, in many Instances, as its Officers, for the Purpose of bringing themselves into Notice and into private Practice?
In some Instances, perhaps.

Is not that the Motive in many Cases?
That was not my Object.

Might it not form the legitimate Object of Medical Men?
I think it may.

If you had attended this Infirmary and saw a young Man there that paid great Attention, and that you thought showed great Skill, should you not be more willing to take him into Partnership, if you wanted a Partner, than an Individual whose Practice you had never seen?
Certainly.

Are they not generally, in respect of those Hospitals and the Infirmaries, the leading Medical Men who belong to those Associations?
Generally speaking, they are.

And therefore young Men are anxious to attend them to learn from the Experience of older Medical Men?
Yes.

You are at the Head of that Infirmary?
I am; I established it, and have been connected with it Five-and-twenty Years; and have built at my own Expense an Infirmary for Diseases of the Eye, which I attend gratuitously, and my Sons also.

Did not they charge your Son with the defacing a Medical Return?
With cutting out the Leaves of a Book; when I alluded to Calumnies I did not allude to that.

Mr. J. Toogood.

You referred to the Remarks that had been made upon the Writing of this Letter?
Generally; the Conduct of the Medical Men generally throughout the District.

The Board's Charges on the Medical Men arose out of the writing this Letter?
Yes, certainly.

There were no Calumnies before that Letter was written?
I believe there was no Disagreement between the Medical Men and the Guardians until the Commencement of the new Year, and until the Medical Men thought that the Guardians, or the Chairman at least, to many of whom he had promised that the Second Year would be a better one, had broken Faith with them.

You were understood to say, some Time ago, that great Dissatisfaction was felt by the Medical Men in Bridgwater generally in consequence of some Calumnies that had been uttered repeatedly by the Board of Guardians?
I speak only of since June 1837.

There was no Dissatisfaction felt previous to the Letter sent on the 2d of June at any Calumnies that had been uttered by them?
I am not aware that any had been uttered; before that every thing went on smoothly, the Medical Men submitting to a general Loss for the first Year until the Commencement of the last Year, when they found that the Terms were even lower in proportion to the Work to be done, because an Union House was to be erected to contain 300, and there were Sixty-five then sick.

Are you not aware that the whole Expense the Second Year was something more than the Year before?
Yes, 5*l.*, I think; but the Labour was infinitely more; there was an Union House to contain 300 Persons.

They would be Persons who, if not in the Union House, would be to be attended out of the House?
In some Instances I do not think it would lessen the Labours of the Medical Men; there may be One or Two from each Parish.

Would the Labour be increased at all?
I think it would. I think, if the Reports are to be relied on, the Medical Men have had as much to do.

How could those attending the Districts have so much to do if some were removed into the Union Poorhouse?
I will illustrate it in this Way: in the event of One of the Medical Men being obliged to go to his Parish, at the Distance of Five Miles, and having Five Patients, in case Two of those are brought into the Union House he must still go out Five Miles to see the other Three.

Do you think, as a Medical Practitioner for Forty Years in the Profession, the Sum offered by the Board of Guardians to the Medical Men is a sufficient Remuneration for them if they do their Duty to the Poor properly?
I am quite sure it is not. Perhaps I may be allowed to explain. In reference to the Resolutions I only wish to observe, that if those Resolutions had had solely for their Object the Increase of Demand on the Part of the professional Men, or if they had sought to exact any thing like unreasonable Terms, I would not have sanctioned them; my Object always has been to endeavour to raise the Character of the Profession and to make it as respectable as possible, because I thought that by so doing I should best provide for the Necessities of the Poor.

Therefore you proposed the Addition of that Paragraph that the Poor might not suffer, and that they should rather attend them for nothing than they should suffer?
I did.

Mr. J. Toogood.

Are you to be understood to state that, during the Time when the Medical Men were to be paid as if they were Patients in private Practice, you have seen some of the Bills?

I have seen several of the Bills; I did not go through any one of them.

The Journeys to the Paupers are charged the same as if they had been to the Farmers?

Yes; that is the usual Practice in our County.

Take a Place Four Miles from Bridgwater; what should you charge for a Visit to a Farmer?

Five Shillings.

You believe that the Guardians would be charged *5s.* for a Pauper?

Yes, under those Circumstances.

Supposing there were Three Paupers in that Parish, would it be *15s.* or only One *5s.*?

On ordinary Occasions the Journey would be charged to the Pauper who required it most; but there was a distinct Understanding that each Journey was, under the Circumstances, to be charged separately; for the Medical Men undertook this only while they were waiting until the Board brought Men to oppose them.

Were you a Party to that?

I was not a Party to it.

Were you consulted?

I was consulted.

And that was your Opinion?

No; it was determined before. The Moment I was told that I said, "I think you are unwise. If there are Two Paupers in One Parish, or Two Farmers in the Parish, who equally required my Attendance, I should charge a Journey to each; but if one did not require my daily Attendance and the other did, I should charge the one who did not require my daily Attendance and Care every Second or Third Day, and the one who did require it daily I should charge daily."

Do you know who settled that they were to charge *15s.* for One Journey, whereas if a Medical Man had gone to see Three Farmers he would have charged but *5s.*?

I am not sure.

They made a pretty good Thing of it those Three Weeks, did they not?

They received *162l.* altogether, I think.

That was after deducting Twenty-five per Cent. upon their Bills?

That was the Result of the Trial.

Twenty-five per Cent. was taken off from their Bills?

I believe I may state that in consequence of the Refusal of the Orders of the Overseer, Mr. Poole's Bill was reduced *8l.*; the Jury awarded him *30l.*, his Charge being *38l.*

There was nothing taken off from his Bill but the Charges where the Overseer had forbidden his Attendance?

Precisely.

During that Interval of Three Weeks you would have charged Three labouring Men *15s.* for performing that Office for which you would have charged Three Farmers only *5s.*?

No; there was a special Agreement made between the Board and the Medical Men that, under the peculiar Circumstances in which they were placed, they should charge the Journeys separately to each Person.

They were to charge *5s.* for every Pauper Labourer to whom they went?

Yes.

If there had been Two Farmers of whom One required your daily Attendance and the other did not, for the Two Farmers you would have charged *5s.*?

Under different Circumstances.

Where

Mr. J. Toogood.

Where there were Two labouring Men in the Parish of A. requiring the Attendance of a Medical Man, the Medical Man charged for each of those *5s.* a Day for his Visit?
Yes.

In the same Parish of A. there are Two Farmers requiring your Attendance, of whom one requires your Attendance not every Day, and the other does, and you charge for those Two only *5s.* jointly?
I charge *5s.* to the One. This was a special Bargain made between the Overseers and the Medical Men that they should charge a Visit to each if there were a Dozen in the Parish, but they made no specific Bargain with the Farmers.

Where does that specific Bargain as to the Poor appear?
It was with the Medical Men at the Board of Guardians. Mr. Parker can prove it; I believe he was the Person. The Gentleman whose Name I have just mentioned, Mr. Pitman King, One of the Guardians, can prove it on the Part of the Guardians; he has told me so.

What was the Bargain?
That they should be paid precisely the same as for private Patients, but a specific Agreement was made as to the Journeys.

Does that appear upon the Face of the Minutes?
They never entered it at all.

How do you know the Fact?
I had it from Mr. Parker, who was present, and it was confirmed by Mr. Pitman King, One of the Guardians.

Have you seen One of the Bills in which it was so charged?
Yes.

Two labouring Men, under this particular Agreement, being ill in the same Parish of A., the Parish would be charged *5s.* for each Visit?
Yes.

There being during that Period no particular Bargain with Two Farmers in that Parish of A., what should you charge them?
If they were equally ill they would be charged a Visit each; but if one required a Visit every Day, and the other every other Day, they would be so charged. If I went to see one Farmer To-day, and my Day for seeing the other would have been To-morrow, I should not pass his Door without calling upon him.

You miss charging a Fee to the one, and you charge *5s.* to the other?
Yes, if he requires it.

To the other you charge nothing?
Yes.

The next Day you charge him *5s.*?
Yes, if he requires it.

Therefore, the Two Farmers and the Two Labourers being attended by those Gentlemen daily, the Medical Attendants receive 10*s.* for the Attendance on the Two Labourers, while for the Attendance on the Two Farmers they receive only 7*s.* 6*d.*?
Yes, under those Circumstances; but I should state, those Circumstances very rarely occurred; it much more frequently occurs to me to pass through the Five Turnpike Gates forming the Five Entrances to the Town to make Five Visits.

Were you present at the Trial of the Action?
I was not.

There was only One Trial, and then the other Bills were settled on the Principle established by the Jury by their Verdict?
The Medical Men proposed that.

Mr. J. Toogood.

Did you observe a great many Leeches charged in those Bills during those Three Weeks?

I did not go through the Particulars.

You did not see that there was a great deal of Quinine?

I do not know what the Medicine was; "a Mixture" would be put down, not the Ingredients. I did see "Leeches" put down.

Did you observe that there were more Visits charged during those Three Weeks than you were in the habit of paying at the Time that you were a Parish Surgeon?

No. I may say further, that my Advice to the Medical Men was, as soon as this Agreement was made with the Board of Guardians, that they should attend to them during those Three Weeks exactly as they had done before, not making them fewer or more Visits, or giving them Medicine in a different Form; and I believe they did so.

They did not ask your Advice about the first Thing until they had decided it?

I did not know it till it had taken place.

Do you think the Poor of the Bridgwater Union are properly looked after by the Medical Men now?

I believe not, if I am to judge by the Reports I have heard.

Is your Son one now?

No. I observe a great Number of Deaths more than I have ever known before; I think Sixteen occurred in the Union House in Two Months.

Who attends the House?

Mr. Ward.

What Class of Paupers are generally sent to the Workhouse?

Really I do not know much about them; I never attend any of them.

Is that a much greater Proportion than you have ever known before?

Much greater.

You never had an Union Workhouse before?

No; but we had the old Workhouse, which contained Ninety, and the Average of Deaths was about Nine in the Year,

Are you able to say that at the present Moment a great many of those who have died in the Union Workhouse are not Persons who have been in the Infirmary at Bridgwater, and not been cured there?

Yes; I think I can state that.

Will you say there is not One?

No.

Will you say there are not Five?

I cannot say; I have never been in the Union Workhouse.

You do not know whether they were Persons whose Diseases were incurable before they were placed in that Workhouse?

I do not; but I know we have some in the Bridgwater Infirmary who have been under the Care of the Parish Surgeon who are not cured.

Have you cured them?

Some of them we have.

Can you state the Names of any of them?

I cannot call their Names to Recollection without the Books; I can mention One Name, if it is desired.

That is very often the Case, that where one Surgeon cannot cure another does, is it not?

It happens sometimes.

During what Space of Time have those Sixteen Persons died?

I think it is in Two Months; it is in One of the Papers before your Lordships, the Registrar's Report. That which attracted my Attention was the great

Mr. J. Toogood.

Number dying from Inflammation of the Lungs. (*The Witness refers to Page* 18 *of the Return respecting the Bridgwater Union.*) My Attention was drawn to that Fact by Mr. Bowen, who has interested himself a good deal in the Matter, who came to me professionally to ask me whether any Disease prevailed to any considerable Extent in that District.

Mr. Bowen is an intimate Friend of yours?
No, not an intimate Friend.

He is a Friend of yours?
Yes; but I do not attend his Family.

Have you not taken the same Part with respect to the Poor Law Amendment Act?
I have taken no Part, except on the Medical Questions.

Have you not expressed the same Opinions as he has?
No, not as to our being hostile to the Law; our Second Resolution disclaims that; and so far from that I have done all in my Power to carry the Law into effect. I have given my gratuitous Services to the Union whenever they have been wanted, without Fee or Reward; and I hope I shall not be considered presumptuous in stating that I was desired to come to the Assistance of One of the Surgeons attending a Man, who proposed to amputate his Arm at the Shoulder Joint; my Experience enabled me to say that his Arm might perhaps be saved, and I am happy to say he has his Arm, and I gave my Attendance for Three or Four Weeks without any Charge. In the District my Son had I established a Dispensary, and paid a Rent of *5l.* for the Year; he took charge of the Union, and I assisted him in every possible Way I could; I have never withheld my Assistance.

Supposing Mr. Ward required your Assistance, and to consult with you, should you have any Objection to meet Mr. Ward?
Yes, I should.

On what Ground should you object to meet Mr. Ward?
Because Mr. Ward's Appearance at Bridgwater having occasioned some Sensation, I took an Opportunity of doing that which I considered quite proper on my Part, making myself acquainted with his Character and Acquirements.

It is not in consequence of this Resolution of the Association,—"That this Meeting will not recognize or hold Intercourse with any Medical Practitioner who dishonours the Profession by acting in opposition to the foregoing Resolutions," that you would not meet Mr. Ward?
I should not have felt myself bound, not belonging to the Union. I would not have refused my Assistance to any Pauper, but would not have acted with him.

Were not you one of that Meeting?
Yes; but I did not hold an Appointment under the Union.

The Resolution at this Meeting, at which you were present, and which is seconded by your Son, is "That this Meeting will not recognize or hold Intercourse with any Medical Practitioner who dishonours the Profession by acting in opposition to the foregoing Resolutions"?
I would not have met him.

Mr. Ward came into the Parish and took one of the Districts contrary to those Resolutions?
He did.

Would your Reason for not choosing to consult with Mr. Ward be that Fifth Resolution?
Yes; that was in the first Instance before I made myself acquainted with his Character; but I took the earliest opportunity of inquiring who Mr. Ward was.

Did you inform yourself?
Yes; when a Stranger comes into the Neighbourhood it is desirable to know who and what he is, and I felt it right to inquire.

Mr. J. Toogood.

Is it not a Rule in the Medical Profession to refuse Consultation with any Person who is not considered as regularly qualified?

It is my Rule; and I think it is a general Rule among respectable Practitioners.

What do you mean by being regularly qualified?

I mean that the Man should be a Member of the College of Surgeons and a Licentiate of the Apothecaries Company, and also produce Testimonials of being competent to practise Midwifery. I may add still further, that I heard before the Committee of the House of Commons Sir Astley Cooper and other eminent Medical Men state, that those Qualifications alone would not be sufficient unless a Man proved his Fitness by a Residence of Two Years at least in the District, by showing that he was a Man of good Character and benevolent Feelings.

Are not those Qualifications necessary for a general Practitioner?

They are indispensable to all who act in the Country, unless they were in Practice before 1815.

Do you mean indispensable by Law?

Yes.

Is there any Law which requires that a Man should be a Member of the College of Surgeons before he practises as an Apothecary?

Perhaps I went too far in saying indispensable; but I believe there is no Man of the least Respectability now who practises, nor has, I believe, for many Year, past, who is not a Member of the College of Surgeons.

Do you hold Intercourse with Mr. Addison?

I have never met Mr. Addison, but some Years ago, before I knew who he was.

Should you refuse to meet Mr. Addison?

Yes, I should.

Why should you refuse to meet Mr. Addison?

I should refuse to meet Mr. Addison because he is not a regularly educated Man.

Cannot you speak to a Surgeon unless he has lived Two Years in your District?

I do not know how we are to know any thing about him.

What should he do during those Two Years?

He should be resident Two Years before he is elected to an Union.

Suppose Mr. Addison has a District under the Poor Law Guardians, and he should want your Assistance in a Case of Difficulty, you would refuse to meet him to give him your Assistance?

I have never been asked to do so; if I were asked I should give him the Reason why I did not. On a Medical Case I would meet him, but not on a Surgical Case. I know he is a Licentiate of the Apothecaries Company, and I think he is fit to practise as an Apothecary.

Vice versâ with respect to Mr. Young, who is a Member of the College of Surgeons, and not a Licenciate of the Apothecaries Company?

I would not meet Mr. Young on any Terms; I have private Reasons for not doing so.

Putting aside those private Reasons, would you refuse to meet him in a Medical Case as a Medical Person because he was not a Licentiate of the Apothecaries Company?

Yes, I think I should do so; my great Object has been always to make the Profession as respectable as possible.

You think it necessary for that Respectability that no Persons should practise in it but those who are Members of the College of Surgeons and Licentiates of the Apothecaries Company?

Yes.

Mr. J. Toogood.

Can a Man practise as an Apothecary without being a Member of the College of Surgeons?

I believe he can practise as a Surgeon without a Licence from the College; but I know he cannot practise as an Apothecary without being a Licentiate of the Apothecaries Company. Having a large Family of my own, having educated already Three to the Medical Profession, I have thought it right to give them the best possible Education the London and the Continental Schools would afford, and to fulfil all the Requirements of the Law.

From what you know of Bridgwater, do you think the Poor of that Union have suffered in consequence of the Medical Men being beaten down in the Way they were by the Board of Guardians?

I think they have.

With respect to the Case of Charlotte Allen, who gave to you the Particulars of that Case?

When I was appointed Chairman of this Association all the Documents were directed to me; I received them from Mr. King and Mr. Ruddock.

What Documents?

Those on which the Pamphlet was founded. This was sent to me by Mr. King and Mr. Ruddock.

Did you ever take the Trouble yourself to inquire into the Circumstances of the Case?

Yes; but I particularly avoided seeing her, thinking perhaps there might be wrong Motives imputed to my going there. I was invited to go there several Times, but I never saw her in my Life.

Then, as far as your personal Knowledge goes, do you know how far she was suffering under a Laceration and Prolapsus of the Womb?

I have heard it from Mr. Ruddock. She was strictly examined by Mr. Standert, a Man of Thirty or Forty Years Standing. I was with him, but I did not go into the Room; but he examined her on the 14th of February last.

Do you mean Mr. Abraham King?

No; Mr. Henry King, Mr. Ruddock's Partner.

Can you supply the Committee with the Result of that Examination?

I can give in all the Documents.

Are they signed by the Parties?

Yes, they are.

Will you put in the Statements referring to the Case of Charlotte Allen?

This has reference to Charlotte Allen's Case, but it is not the one I intended; but I have somewhere among my Papers Mr. King's Letter and Mr. Ruddock's as well; their Letters enter into the minute Parts of the Case. The Case is condensed by me from their Letters.

These are not the Words in which they themselves drew up the Case?

I do not know whether they exactly correspond with the Words, but in Substance it is precisely the same.

Is there any Fact connected with this Case you know of your own Knowledge?

I know that I accompanied Mr. Standert to see a Case in the Neighbourhood. He was then desired by Mr. Ruddock and Mr. King to visit Charlotte Allen. I waited till his Return; and on his Return he told me the Statement of the Case was strictly correct.

When was that?

On the 14th of February last.

Will you produce the Documents respectively of Mr. Ruddock and Mr. King relating to Charlotte Allen?

I am not sure that I have them here; but I have them in London, and can produce them on another Day. I beg to put in the Letter of Mr. Standert.

That is subsequent to the Pamphlet?

It is; but that is to prove that the first Statement is correct, it having been doubted.

Mr. J. Toogood.

In the Case of Charlotte Allen, you say "she became daily worse. A Neighbour applied to the Relieving Officer on the following Monday for Assistance, and was told by him, that as there was no Parish Doctor at that Time, no Order must be given, unless in Cases of absolute Necessity, as it was very expensive." You go on to state that the Relieving Officer ordered her to apply to his Wife, that she might judge whether it was necessary, or not; that his Wife did not go, but sent to the Midwife, who directed the poor Sufferer to take Three Pennyworth of Castor Oil; and those Words, "to take Three Pennyworth of Castor Oil," are in Italics?

Not by my Direction; I gave no Direction to that Effect.

Who gave the Direction to that Effect?

I believe it was the Printer's Fancy.

Was not the Proof Sheet brought to the Medical Association to correct?

It was sent to me.

Did you not notice it?

No, I did not.

Can you swear that there was not a Dash under those Words?

I cannot swear that at this Distance of Time; I made no Observation upon it.

If there is such a Scratch it might have been added afterwards?

I do not remember any thing on the Point; I gave no Direction upon the Point.

You consider yourself answerable for it if the Proof was sent to you?

I do not wish to shelter myself.

All you mean to say is you did not mean to put it in Italics?

I really have no Recollection upon the Subject.

Did you mean to point that out as an improper Exhibition of that Medicine?

No, certainly not.

In this Pamphlet was it your Object to draw the Attention of the Public to particular Words, by their being put in Italics?

I gave no Direction for their being put in Italics.

Has there been a Second Edition of the Book?

Yes.

Do those Words stand in Italics in the Second Edition?

I do not know.

Did you mean those Words to be more or less noticed, in consequence of being printed in Italics?

No; I wished the true Facts to be ascertained.

Is there any thing wrong in this Midwife having ordered Castor Oil?

It might be a proper Medicine for any thing I know, but if she was in a very alarming State it was a very inefficient Mode of treating a highly dangerous Disease.

Supposing there was a Prolapsus Uteri, was it proper she should have a Medical Men to attend her?

Certainly.

You did not direct those Words to be put in Italics, but you believe it was not a sufficient Medicine for the Purpose?

I am clear of that.

Do you mean not a proper Medicine, or not a sufficient Quantity?

It should be a different Medicine altogether; it was not what I should have done under such Circumstances; the Woman was labouring under violent inflammatory Disease.

You speak on the Notion that the Midwife who attended was not a skilful Person?

All the Midwives in our Neighbourhood are uneducated; they do not know

that there is such a Thing as the Uterus; they have not received the slightest Education. *Mr. J. Toogood.*

Do you mean to say it was an improper Medicine to give?
It was an improper Medicine for that Disease; it may have been, in addition to other Things, a Remedy, but it was not a proper Way to meet such a Disease as that.

Suppose Prolapsus of the Uterus or Laceration of the Perinæum had taken place, would Castor Oil have been a proper Medicine after Labour?
If she had that which Mr. King and Mr. Ruddock had represented, Puerperal Fever, it was not at all a Remedy; a very different Mode of Treatment was the only one likely to save her, and I understand such Mode of Treatment was adopted.

Would the ordering of that Medicine under those Circumstances have satisfied you that the Midwife was not a skilful Person fit to prescribe for a Person in that Situation?
I am quite sure she could not be a fit and proper Person to prescribe for such a Disease.

Do you know the Woman?
No; but I know the general Character of those People.

Do you know whether she had much Practice?
She might have much Practice. If the Thing is perfectly natural, and they have nothing to do, the Thing goes on right; but if there is any Difficulty, then they are unequal to the Task.

There is a great Jealousy on the Part of the Medical Men towards the Midwives, in consequence of their taking from them that Branch of Practice, is there not?
I believe the Medical Men would be very glad that they would take it all from them in the Country.

Would they like to lose all those Guineas they receive in that Way?
I do not think they get much by it; if a Man goes out and stays Two Days and Two Nights, and gets only that, he is not paid.

Suppose she suffered under Laceration of the Perinæum; do you believe that that was in consequence of Want of Skill on the Part of the Midwife in her Delivery?
Yes.

Have the goodness to describe what is a Laceration of the Perinæum?
Laceration of the Perinæum refers to that Part which intervenes between the Termination of the Vagina and the Commencement of the Rectum.

Would that be either prevented or cured by any Quantity of Castor Oil?
No, certainly not.

It must be prevented by a skilful Surgeon?
Most unquestionably. I have prevented it myself; to cure it is an extremely difficult Matter.

It may be prevented by Skill in Delivery?
Generally it may. It is possible, under extraordinary Circumstances, a Laceration to a small Extent may take place; but I have never seen, in the course of between Thirty and Forty Years, Laceration to any dangerous Extent which did not arise from Ignorance or Negligence.

From what did the Laceration and Prolapsus Uteri in this Case proceed?
I suppose from the Violence of Labour or forcible Extraction of the Placenta. It is a very common Practice with Midwives, as soon as a Child is born, to take hold of the umbilical Cord and pull it, and every now and then the Uterus is turned inside out; and very often Women attended by Midwives suffer, not from Prolapsus, but from the Procedentia from improper Management.

Supposing this to have happened from improper Management, can it be cured by Castor Oil?
No, certainly not.

Mr. J. Toogood.

This Woman, according to this Account in your Pamphlet, had been in a critical State previous to her Delivery?
She had some Disease of the Liver, I think.

Would that Disease be likely to make her Delivery more dangerous?
It would place her in a more critical Situation.

Under those Circumstances, was it, in your Opinion, safe to leave the Woman in the Hands of a Midwife, or that she ought to have a Medical Man?
I think that she ought to have had a Medical Man.

Supposing that the Case had occurred previous to the new Poor Law, would she have been attended by a Medical Man, or have been left to a Midwife?
I think it is very likely she would have been attended by a Medical Man, particularly if she had asked; I never knew it refused.

Supposing the Relieving Officer had reported that she ought to have a Medical Man, would it have been refused under those Circumstances?
I think not, if she had applied in the proper Quarter; he must have satisfied them that it was necessary.

Do you know whether this Woman did ask for a Medical Man?
Mr. King and Mr. Ruddock have told me so; but I do not know it of my own Knowledge.

It is but Information?
Mr. Richard Ruddock has so informed me.

Supposing her to suffer from this Prolapsus of the Womb and Laceration of the Perinæum, is such an Injury remediable?
Yes; the Prolapsus of the Womb is remediable.

With respect to the Laceration of the Perinæum?
They very rarely recover from that.

Would she be in a State which would render her future Existence miserable?
That depends upon the Extent to which the Laceration goes. If there is a Communication at the End of the Rectum, or any Way up the Rectum communicating with the Vagina, her Existence would be miserable. I know an Instance where a poor Woman cannot retain her Fæces for a Moment; and another where the Fæces pass from the Rectum into the Vagina, and out of the Vagina again.

Is that the Case with Charlotte Allen now?
I do not know; I have never seen Charlotte Allen in my Life.

Supposing a Laceration of the Perinæum to exist, does that produce a Discharge of any other Kind?
Yes; there is a Discharge of Mucus and Matter frequently.

Is that apt to make a Person offensive?
Yes; and to excoriate the Parts round. I consider Laceration of the Perinæum One of the most miserable Things that can happen.

That seldom happens but by the Incompetence of the Practitioner?
I believe very seldom.

Upon the whole of that Case you mean to give it as your Opinion that this Woman suffered this Misfortune from her having been attended by a Midwife instead of a Medical Man?
I think there would have been less Chance if she had been attended by a Man Midwife; she would have had a better Chance of escaping those Evils; but it is quite clear that when she had this Attack of Puerperal Fever, then her Situation was even more critical than it had been at any former Period; that she required the instant Aid of a Medical Man.

When was that found upon her?
I think Mr. Ruddock states that on the Wednesday he found her in a State of Puerperal Fever. Mr. Ruddock being a young Man called in an elder Friend, thinking the Woman would not live for Eight-and-forty Hours.

Do you consider that there was Puerperal Fever connected with the other Disease? *Mr. J. Toogood.*

It is the Consequence of the Labour.

Is it connected with the Laceration of the Womb?

It is much more likely to happen after much Violence.

How do you mean after much Violence?

It is an Inflammation of the Covering of the Bowels; the Womb, and all those Parts, the Vagina and Rectum, having a peritoneal Covering, as soon as Inflammation commences in one Part it extends over the others.

You give it as your Opinion as a Medical Man, that an Inflammation brought on by Laceration of the Perinæum would be properly designated Puerperal Fever?

No; the Puerperal Fever comes on without any Laceration at all; but a Person who has suffered great Violence in Labour, such as Prolapsus of the Uterus, and Laceration of the Perinæum, is more liable to an Attack of Puerperal Fever.

Do you as a Medical Man mean to state, that you consider that the Fever brought on by Laceration of the Perinæum would have been properly designated Puerperal Fever?

Yes; but I do not mean to say that all Puerperal Fevers are produced in that Way.

You mean to say that Fever brought on by Laceration of the Womb or Perinæum would be properly designated by a Medical Man Puerperal Fever?

Yes; I take for granted that those Gentlemen knew it was a Puerperal Fever by other Symptoms as well.

Would Fever brought on by the Laceration of the Womb or Perinæum be properly designated Puerperal Fever?

If it was Puerperal Fever; she might have had other Fever, Milk Fever or other Fevers, without its being Puerperal Fever; all Fevers that occur during the Month after Parturition may be called Puerperal Fevers, though we medically do not understand them as such; if a Person talks to me of Puerperal Fever I know it as a distinct Disease.

If a Medical Man had told you this was Puerperal Fever, that would not have led you to believe it arose from Laceration of the Perinæum?

No, it would not have induced that Belief; but on seeing the Patient, I should have asked whether any extraordinary Violence had occurred in the Labour.

If a Medical Man wanted to describe it as Fever brought on by Laceration would not he have described it otherwise than as Puerperal Fever?

I think I have seen Lacerations of the Perinæum without Fever, or with slight Fever; there is always more or less Fever after Delivery.

If the Fever had been brought on by Laceration of the Womb would he not have described it by a different Name than Puerperal Fever?

He would say, this Woman has Fever attended with Laceration of the Perinæum; but I think Puerperal Fever is a distinct Disease; but it may be accompanied by Laceration of the Perinæum, and with Prolapsus of the Uterus.

Is there not a particular Name for Fever brought on by Laceration of the Womb, and those Accidents which occur sometimes?

Not to my Knowledge; they are all perhaps classed under the one Head of Puerperal Fever; accordingly you state that this Woman has a Lying-in Fever, or a Child-bed Fever, sometimes you call it one and sometimes the other; but Medical Men understand a distinct and dangerous Disease under the Name of Puerperal Fever.

It does not lead a Medical Man to know that the Disease arises from Laceration of the Perinæum?

Certainly not; but if he were called to a Case of Puerperal Fever he would naturally inquire what Sort of Labour the Woman had had, and whether there had been any extraordinary Violence.

Mr. J. Toogood.

Which do you consider the most grievous Calamity, the having this Laceration of the Womb, or Prolapsus of the Uterus, or the Puerperal Fever?
I consider that the Puerperal Fever is the most dangerous Disease; I have known it destroy Persons in Twenty-four Hours.

Persons frequently recover from Puerperal Fever, do they not?
Under judicious Treatment.

From Laceration of the Perinæum you have known very few recover?
Very few, I believe; I have not known more than One Case in the whole course of my Practice.

They undergo a Degree of Suffering from that Disease during the whole of their Lives?
If it is a bad Laceration extending to the Rectum.

You think the Puerperal Fever still the most grievous Calamity of the Two?
It is the most grievous of the Two, for Persons live for many Years with Lacerations of the Perinæum; it will not destroy Life, but Puerperal Fever, unless most judiciously met, leads to Death in from Twenty-four to Forty Hours.

What is Hysteritis?
Inflammation of the Womb.

Is that connected with the Laceration?
Yes, I should think it is connected with the Laceration; the Uterus is covered with the Peritoneum.

Is not Prolapsus Uteri very likely to take place from some Imprudence on the Part of the Woman getting up and moving about too soon after her Delivery?
It may. I have never known a Prolapsus take place; I have known a Procedentiæ, a Falling-down, a Descent of the Womb into the Vagina; but I have never known a Prolapsus externally.

It might occur from the Woman rising too soon?
They have what is called a Bearing-down.

That arises from taking Exercise too soon after Delivery?
Yes; but I have never known Prolapsus Uteri occasioned by that.

Do you think it possible it could be?
I should think it improbable.

Could the Laceration of the Perinæum have been produced by improper Treatment when the Person was examined?
Oh no, certainly not.

Suppose an unskilful Person examined her, no Unskilfulness of his could have produced that State?
Certainly not; he must have used an Instrument, he could not have torn the Perinæum with his Fingers; and I do not know how he could pull down the Womb, unless he used an Instrument and drew it down.

It must have been by extreme Violence, much more than was necessary to examine the Person?
Certainly; it possibly might have been produced in that Way.

You never saw the Woman yourself?
No; I avoided it.

Whatever occasioned the Laceration of the Perinæum, when it once was discovered to exist, was it not necessary a skilful Medical Man should be called in?
Certainly.

Was it proper that a Person who applied for Medical Assistance under such Circumstances should be told of the Objection in point of Expense?
No; I think she should have had the best Medical Advice which could be procured.

Could any thing but the best Medical Advice save her from Death? *Mr. J. Toogood*
I think not.

Do you agree in the Opinion that Puerperal Fever is the common Name and Hysteritis Simplex the professional Name for the same Thing?
The whole Uterus was involved in the same Inflammation; but if a Person were to speak to me of Hysteritis I should not say that Person had Puerperal Fever.

Do you agree in the Opinion that Puerperal Fever is the common Name and Hysteritis Simplex the professional Name for the same Thing?
I feel a Difficulty in answering the Question, because all the Womb is involved together. I do not think that there could be Puerperal Fever without having Hysteritis; there must be some Inflammation at the same Time.

Do you mean to say a Fever arising from Laceration of the Womb would be a Puerperal Fever, in your Opinion?
Not necessarily, but it may be.

It may bring on those Symptoms that distinguish a few Classes of this particular Disease?
Yes; and may lead to the Formation of Puerperal Fever.

Then is Puerperal Fever the common Name and Hysteritis Simplex the professional Name for the same Thing?
No, I do not say that; but I beg to say, that a Person having Puerperal Fever would have Hysteritis.

But it is not the same Thing; the one the professional Name and the other the vulgar Name for the same Thing?
Medical Men use the Term Puerperal Fever constantly to each other; if they spoke of a Person having a Puerperal Fever they would use no other Term but that.

Not as Hysteritis?
That is an Inflammation of the Womb. The Womb is always inflamed, more or less, in Puerperal Fever.

Which induces Puerperal Fever?
I do not know whether it induces it or not.

Is not Puerperal Fever one which a Person is subject to at an early Period after Parturition?
Yes.

And Milk Fever is also Puerperal Fever?
Yes; they are all confounded in One Name.

And Hysteritis is One of the Species?
Yes, that is Part of the same Disease; you cannot have Puerperal Fever without having some Degree of Hysteritis.

But you might have Hysteritis without having Puerperal Fever?
Yes, you might.

Then none of those Names indicate necessarily a Laceration of the Womb?
No, they have nothing to do with it at all necessarily. Before I quit this Place, I would for my own Satisfaction wish to say I have Statements of all Parties concerned in this Matter.

By whom?
By the Parties themselves. Having appended my Name to the Pamphlet, feeling that my Character and Reputation were at stake, I was desirous to show, as far as I possibly could, that the Facts were rightly represented; and about Charlotte Allen's Case, I have Depositions that the Facts which were communicated to me in the first instance were not overdrawn.

Before what Magistrate were they sworn?
They were drawn up by an Attorney; there is no Magistrate's Name to them.

Who was the Attorney?
I believe Mr. Ruddock's Brother drew them up.

Mr. J. Toogood.

They do not appear to be Depositions; they are not sworn?
I considered a Deposition to be that which might be sworn at any Time.

There are certain Cases of Paupers at Woollavington; you received the Particulars of those Cases from Mr. Caswell?
I did. He is dead; he unfortunately destroyed himself.

The Names are, George Reynolds's Child, Nanny Millard, Kesia Coles, and Thomas Lovibond. You say, "Here we see written Directions given to the Surgeon to discontinue his Attendance; and what follows? Why the Death of One of the poor Sufferers, who died a few Days after this Mandate was issued." How do you know that Fact?
I have Mr. Caswell's Papers; his Widow put his Papers into my Hands. He has left his Widow and Three Children in great Distress. I have strong Reason to believe that he destroyed himself in consequence of having been obliged by his Poverty to accept much less than was due to him for attending the Poor.

He agreed to accept less than he thought due to him?
He did; he agreed to accept 40*l.* in lieu of 92*l.*, the others having been paid a much larger Proportion of their Bills.

How do you know that?
I know that of my own Knowledge.

Did the having done so affect his Mind?
I saw him Two Days afterwards in a State of the greatest Excitement; that was on the Tuesday or Wednesday, and on the Saturday Morning I was called to him; my Son went, and found him dead.

Did his Mind appear to be very much affected in consequence of the Distress he had brought upon himself by having accepted this small Sum?
Very much. He stated that the Board of Guardians had taken advantage of his Poverty, and that some of the Board of Guardians offered to raise a private Subscription when the whole Board determined not to defend any further Actions, and a new Trial had been moved; for I have a Statement of One of the Board of Guardians, which proves that One of the Guardians proposed, and another seconded, a Motion, to defend any Action he might bring.

You state that the Death of One of the poor Sufferers followed in a few Days after the Mandate was issued; what Authority have you for that?
I believe I have Mr. Caswell's Authority for that.

Which of the Parties was that?
Reynolds's Child.

Do you know any thing of the Circumstances of Reynolds's Child?
I only know it from what I have heard from Mr. Caswell.

He is dead?
Yes; but I have his Book, which I think will justify that. This (*producing it*) is the Book in which he has put down his Attendances on the Poor; and the Names of all the Parties are contained in that Book; I think that will bear out the whole of the Statement.

Is it in his Handwriting?
Yes, I could swear to that.

From whom did you get it?
From Mr. Caswell's own Hands.

Did he tell you that was the Statement and the only Statement he had ever drawn up?
Yes, he told me so.

Why did you ask him particularly whether that was the only one?
I did not particularly ask him; he said, "These are all the Memoranda I have about Reynolds's Case;" it was at the Time I was writing the Pamphlet. This Book contains an Account of all his Journeys, and his Observations on the Case. There is an Entry on the 2d of July, "In consequence of the Order of Mr. Stagg, I have this Day been reluctantly compelled to refuse Medicine to George Reynolds's Child, Kesia Coles, and Nancy Millard; all very ill."

What

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What is the District?

The Huntspill District. Then, on the 5th of July, "Reynolds, George, Child, died last Night." This is the Order for discontinuing his Attendance, in the Handwriting of the Relieving Officer (*producing it*): "Sir, I am directed by the Board of Guardians to inform you that you are to discontinue your Attendance on the under-mentioned Paupers in Woollavington until you receive further Orders from the proper Authorities. I am, Sir, yours obediently, J. Stagg, R. O. (viz.) George Reynolds's Child, Nanny Millard, Kezia Coles, Thos. Lovibond. Woollavington, 1st July 1837. To Mr. Caswell, Surgeon." This is a Copy from his Book of the Visits paid to the Child. All the Medical Men had a Book in which they entered their Visits.

Have you taken those out of the Book?

Yes.

The following Entries are read from the Book:

Die Saturnii, 1° Julii.

Received a Note from the Hands of Thos. Lovibond, after I had seen the People, not further to attend the following Persons; (viz.) Geo. Reynolds's Child, very bad; Nanny Millard, very ill; Kesia Coles, very ill; Thos. Lovibond. Also an Order from Mr. Knight the Overseer to discontinue to attend Phœbe Summers, which I had previously done and reported her in my last Week's Account as better and gone to Work. The Relieving Officer had this Day seen the Persons mentioned, knew Geo. Reynolds's Child to be on his Death-bed, and Nanny Millard and Kesia Coles both told him how ill they were, and yet he acted in the Way described. I never knew him to refuse an Order to any Person all the Year my Contract was on, neither did he ever order me to discontinue to attend a Pauper even although he knew they were not proper Persons to send to me.

Die Solis, 2° Julii.—In consequence of the Order of Mr. Stagg I have this Day been reluctantly compelled to refuse Medicine to George Reynolds's Child, Kesia Coles, and Nanny Millard.

Is there any thing from which it appears that that Book was sent to the Board of Guardians at that Time?

I am not aware. "Die Martis, 4° Julii, George Reynolds's Child, Iter." "5° die Mercurii, George Reynolds's Child died last Night." "4th of July, George Coles and Wife, Iter." "5th of July, George Coles's Wife, with a Repetition of her Mixture, 8 ozs." On reference to the Report Book of Mr. Caswell, it appears that he visited Nanny Millard the 4th, 5th, and 6th of July; Kezia Coles on the 4th, 5th, and 6th of July; George Reynolds's Child on the 4th and 5th of July, and Thomas Lovibond on the 5th of July.

Have you any other Documents on this Case?

I have a Letter of Mr. Stagg.

The same is read, and is as follows:

To the Overseers of Woollavington.

Gentlemen,

In consequence of the Delay in the Appointment of a Medical Officer for the Huntspill District I am directed to inform you that in case Application should be made to you for a Medical Order you are to direct such Order to Mr. Caswell as usual until further Arrangements, and that you will act with Discretion in giving such Orders, (but in Cases where you consider Medical Aid to be absolutely necessary by no means to withhold the same,) as every individual Case will be paid for as a private Patient until such Vacancy can be filled up by the Board.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

24th June 1837. (Signed) John Stagg, Relieving Officer.

Is there any other Document or Entry which you would refer to as bearing upon this Point?

Yes; I would beg to refer your Lordships to a Letter of Mr. Caswell to the Board of Guardians of the 6th of July 1837, in Page 46 of the printed Papers before the Committee.

That Letter is a Remonstrance with the Board of Guardians for having given the Orders to stop Assistance in those Cases?

Yes; it also states that the Duties of this District had been heavy all the

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past Year; that he had been obliged to take the First and Second Poor, contrary to his Expectations; that he had knocked up Two Horses the past Year, and lost Money by his Contract. Mr. Underdown states in his Report that Mr. Caswell was quite satisfied with his former Contract.

Whereabout is it that he states that?

That is in Page 49 of the printed Papers: "Mr. Caswell, One of the Three Plaintiffs for the Year ending the 24th of June last, had the Charge of the Huntspill District, comprising Six Parishes and a Population of 3,654 Persons, at a Salary of 50*l.* per Annum; with these Terms he was well satisfied." In his Letter in Page 47, he states, "The Duties of this District have been heavy; all the past Year I have been obliged to take the First and Second Poor, contrary to my Expectation; that I have done is evident by a reference to the Book. I have knocked up Two Horses this past Year, and lost Money by my Contract into the Bargain."

You mean to deduce from that that that was a Misrepresentation of Mr. Caswell's Feelings with respect to his Satisfaction at his previous Salary?

I do, indeed; I have reason to know that he was not satisfied.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned till To-morrow, Twelve o'Clock.